

Historic, Archive Document

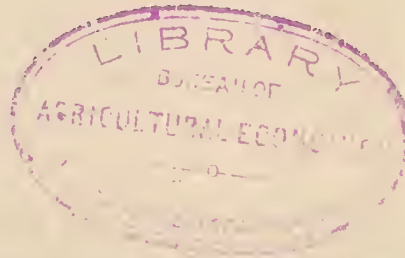
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM
POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 1, 1927



Vol. 1, No. 1

SOCIOLOGICAL INFORMATION.

The so-called Purnell Act of Congress bias fair to be the most important aid to rural life in this generation. The reason is not far to seek. Notice the terms of the Act: "The funds shall be applied to necessary expenses of such sociological investigations as have for their purpose the development and improvement of the rural home and rural life." "Sociological investigations" under the auspices of the state Agricultural Experiment Stations having thus been made legitimate by the Act are given scientific standing in the most powerful agency for progress American agriculture employs. All rural sociologists, - even those not teaching in land-grant colleges - will profit eventually by the Purnell Act. It is this inter-relatedness of the work of all sociologists of rural life that prompts the putting out of this quarterly mimeograph to present and future sociological research cooperators. Any information of a sociological character which shall directly sharpen the instruments of rural research, - and consequently sharpen rural teaching and rural extension - will be welcome and find a place here. It is hoped that this quarterly will prove able to knit together the efforts of rural sociologists. "The improvement of the rural home and rural life", to use the words of the Purnell Act, is nothing less than a lofty national aim, in fact, well-nigh a great national cause or struggle, which has come to take its place alongside other historic American struggles.

C. J. Galpin

---000---

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

During the past calendar year the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life signed agreements for nine new cooperative research projects, five of which are being carried by the colleges with Purnell funds. In addition, the Division renewed three cooperative projects of the previous year, two of which are Purnell projects.

Three of the projects deal with rural organizations and agencies, three with some phase of community organization, two with town-country relationships, two with attitudes of farm people toward farming, one with farm population and one with the effect of manufacturing on farming. The last of the above named project centers around several agricultural villages in which manufacturing has been established during the past ten years.

Cooperative projects practically completed the past year include two on farm population, four on rural organizations and institutions, one on town-country relations, two on the farmer's standard of living, one on the adaptation of farm families to types of farming, one on farmers' marketing attitudes and one on farmers' local municipalities. Among the publications issued from the projects completed the past year are Standard of Living on Iowa Farms and Cost of Living on Iowa Farms by Dr. George H. Von Tungen, Iowa State College, and J. F. Thaden, formerly at Iowa State College and now at Michigan Agricultural College, The Farmer's Standard of Living by Dr. E. L. Kirkpatrick, Farm Population and Rural Life, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Rural Social Organization in Whitman County, by Professor E. A. Taylor and Professor F. R. Yoder, State College of Washington, and Some of the Best Things in Rural Virginia, by Wilson Gee, University of Virginia. In addition, the Division issued Farmer's Bulletin 1485, Rural Hospitals; by Mr. Wayne C. Nason. Several additional manuscripts from completed projects are in press. These with the prospective manuscripts from the newer studies taken up the past year give promise of another satisfactory year in the field of research.

---oOo---

VALUE OF PRELIMINARY REPORTS

The Division of Farm Population and Rural Life recommends to project workers the use of the preliminary report as a means of immediate, although perhaps tentative, release of the most significant results of research. The preliminary release of a part of the data is especially desirable when completion of the project is delayed owing to a lack of funds needed to publish in full or to the necessity of obtaining and tabulating additional data.

Among the specific values contributed by the use of the preliminary report, either in mimeograph or printed form, to the study under way are spanning or bridging the time element, preservation or maintenance of the dignity of the study, release of the pertinent facts for immediate use, stimulation of a demand for the final product, aid to the worker in analysis and interpretation of the data and a permanent record for results obtained up to a given time. Preliminary reports have been found an excellent means of getting summaries back to the local people participating in separate units of our larger studies. In this form, the results can be given a somewhat local interpretation which is often pushed aside in the final report or manuscript.

---oOo---

JOINT STUDY OF STANDARD OF LIVING
AND RETURNS FROM FARMING.

Plans are well under way for a joint study of the standard of living and the returns from farming in areas or regions approaching the bottom levels of farming. The Division of Farm Population and Rural Life and the Division of Farm Management and Costs are cooperating in the perfection of plans and arrangements for the study.

Estimates will be obtained of the quantities and values of goods and facilities consumed for family living purposes and of the costs of and returns from farm operations, annually. Account will be taken of money expended for other purposes than family living and farm operations and of funds received from other than farm business sources.

It is probable that two field agents will work simultaneously at taking records, one obtaining the information on family living from the homemaker and the other obtaining the figures on farm business costs and receipts from the farm operator.

From 300 - 500 homes will constitute a unit of study with at least 100 of these to be situated in each contiguous locality studied.

All contacts are to be made and actual cooperation will be sought through the colleges and experiment stations of the different states involved. Plans of procedure will be outlined and explained and field workers will be met for coaching or instruction in schedule taking by a representative of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, at some central point within each state desiring to cooperate.

It is hoped that a number of Experiment Stations and colleges may find it possible to cooperate in a unit of the study. States bordering on or included in the Great Plains region, the East Central States or Western Appalachian area, and the cut-over lands of the North Central States all have localities characteristic of farm-return levels desired for study.

Colleges or individuals interested in cooperating in a unit of the study are urged to write either of the two divisions named above for further information.

---oOo---

COMING CONFERENCE ON THE RELATION OF SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC FACTORS IN RURAL PROGRESS.

Items of interest are gleaned from a brief report of the Joint Committee of the American Country Life Association and the American Farm Economics Association on the relation of social and economic factors in rural progress.

After defining the topic as stated above "The Relation of Social and Economic Factors in Rural Progress", the committee invited the collaboration of authorities whom they deemed qualified to discuss various phases of the question. Invitations extended met with a cordial response and more than sixty articles which were prepared are now being edited for publication in time for use preceding the tenth national conference of the American Country Life Association at East Lansing, Michigan, August 1 to 4, 1927. The Institute of Religious and Social Research ensures the printing of the report.

The committee feels that the articles prepared will form a volume which will be a notable contribution toward the formation of a public policy for agriculture. "Among the articles received, some of the best statements of the social values essential to rural progress are from the economists."

"The discussions center very largely around the problem of the farmer's standard of life, conceiving this term in its broadest sense and not merely as the standard or plane of living applied to material goods consumed.

This is illustrated by a brief quotation from the challenging discussion of 'The Standard of Living and the Farm Income' by Dr. H. C. Taylor.

'Better living is the end in view in better farming and better business There are two theories regarding the way to improve the standard of living for farmers. The one is: give farmers better incomes and they will get the better living; the other theory is, let farmers as a class demand a better living and refuse to farm without it and the reduction of competition will reduce costs, improve prices and provide the means of better living.'

Among the Chapter headings in the proposed report are, The Measure of Rural Progress, The Fundamental Values of Farm Life, The Goal of Economic Efficiency in Agriculture, A Satisfactory Standard of Living for the Farmer, The Competition of Lower Standards of Living, The Relation of Agriculture to Commerce and Industry, and The Social Effect of the Cooperative Movement and the Effect of Social Welfare on Economic Efficiency and Rural Progress.

The Joint Committee consists of Prof. Andrew Boss, University of Minnesota, President F. D. Farrell, Kansas State Agricultural College, and Prof. O. G. Lloyd, Purdue University, for the Farm Economics Association and Dr. Dwight Sanderson, Cornell University, Prof. M. L. Wilson, Montana Agricultural College, and Dr. J. H. Kolb, Wisconsin University, for the Country Life Association. "The creation of this joint committee was due to the suggestion of President K. L. Butterfield, Michigan Agricultural College, who for many years has raised the query as to whether rural progress is not as much due to the desire for the better things in life as it is the result of the improvement of the farmer's economic status."

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TABULATION OF
FARM POPULATION BY COUNTIES.

The "Farm Population Committee" appointed by the Steering Committee of the Rural Sociology Section of the American Sociological Society early in 1926 made the following recommendations at the annual conference held in St. Louis, December 29-30, which were unanimously adopted: That the Bureau of the Census be requested to provide,

1. The Census for 1930 tabulate the farm population by counties according to sex, nationality and age, the age groupings being, under 5 years, 5 to 9, 10 to 14, 15 to 19, 20 to 44, and 45 and over as is done for cities of ten thousand and above.
2. Tabulation be made for the population by counties as requested for the farm population in 1.
3. The question regarding the number of children born to a woman and the number still living be restored to the census of 1930, as it was in the schedules of 1890, 1900 and 1910.
4. Some effort be made to secure tabulations respecting the population of unincorporated villages in order to determine something of their significance. The exact procedure of this is to be worked out in conjunction with the Census Bureau.
5. Special monographs be prepared for population of farms, unincorporated villages, incorporated villages, towns of 2,500 to 4,999, and 5,000 to 9,000 in selected areas as was done for "Farm Population of Selected Counties" from the census of 1920.
6. The American Sociological Society invite the cooperation of the American Statistical Association, National Council of Social Research, and the leading national organizations of farmers, to secure the adoption of these recommendations by the Census Bureau.

Members of the Committee are Dr. Bruce L. Melvin, Cornell University, Chairman; Dr. Warren H. Thompson, Scripps Research Foundation, Miami University, and Dr. C. Luther Fry, Institute of Social and Religious Research.

---oOo---

COMMITTEE STUDYING RURAL VITAL STATISTICS.

The "Farm Population Committee" named above is also in touch with the U. S. Bureau of the Census, seeking a satisfactory method of getting regularly vital statistics of the farm population.

At present the closest approach to farm population vital statistics, viz. birth-rate, death-rate, infant mortality, causes of mortality on farms, is the U. S. Census reports of these facts for "rural" territory, which includes villages, towns and cities, up to 10,000 population.

The farm population concept in population statistics has grown up out of the demand for exact figures on the number, composition and characteristics of the people living on farms; for the purpose of correlating the same with the statistics of agriculture. The legal limitation of immigration into the United States along with other social factors has put a premium upon information as to the replacement requirements and sources of replacement of agricultural workers. The recent accelerated movement of farm people to cities has driven home the fact that, much as we know about farming, we know very little about the vital conditions of the human working force on farms.

The present vital statistics of the "rural" population do not satisfy the demand for farm population vital statistics for the following reasons: (1) The figure for the farm population if determined on the basis of "rural" population vital statistics would be only an estimate, and unconvincing. (2) The age composition of the village group, farm group, and urban group up to 10,000 people, differs so materially from one group to another that when the vital statistics of the three groups are merged, they become virtually valueless for information on any single group.

The Committee expects to be able to work out a plan for a "new registration area" for farm population vital statistics, which will be satisfactory to the Bureau of the Census.

---ooo---

ST. LOUIS MEETING.

A distinct step forward in the progress of ideas along the lines of research, teaching and extension during past year in rural social organization is the consensus of opinion of Purnell workers, extension workers and teachers who attended the annual meeting of the Rural Sociology Section of the American Sociological Society held in St. Louis, December 29-30.

Indications of progress in the field of research, involving the use of Purnell funds especially, are stressed in letters received by the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life from collaborators in charge of Purnell projects in the colleges.

"Research is going forward more satisfactorily than ever before", writes one of our collaborators. "The program this year gave separate consideration to research, extension work and teaching. These divisions are effective, and research is moving forward more satisfactorily than ever before. At a side meeting for the discussion of research there were 25 present. Dr. E. W. Allen met with us, and the discussions were very pointed toward the object of a week's school of research methods which it seems will be set up at Purdue the first week in April."

"The group-meeting devoted to research problems did much to clarify and crystalize ideas with respect to the function and methods of research", writes another. The papers by Dr. C. C. Taylor, 'Report of the Committee on Research', Dr. B. L. Melvin, 'Methods of Social Research' and Dr. L. W. Allen, 'The Nature and Function of Social Research' should be made available to all workers in our field. Another outstanding indication of progress was evidenced in the two papers dealing with the relationship of social and economic investigations. These should be made available to all Purnell workers in the field of rural social research".

"If we compare the general and outstanding ideas most prevalent at the St. Louis meeting with those of all of our meetings since the rural section has been organized, we find two points being emphasized more and more", writes a third worker. "The first of these is that rural social research should be concrete and quantitative and the second that nearly everyone wishes specific material on methodology which will promote his own research projects."

Abundant evidence was given on the quantitative aspect of investigational work. Dr. B. L. Melvin stressed the quantitative approach and outlined some of its methods. Papers delivered at all of the meetings stressed the factual side of the investigations which had been conducted during the past year. Nearly all of the papers given in the rural sections this year were by men who were doing a great deal of investigational work.

The sentiment on methodology was very evident in the special meetings of those interested in Purnell research. These men even went so far as to make arrangements for a conference to discuss methodology this spring".

In regard to extension one of the conference participants holds that the accomplishments in the field of extension in Missouri, Iowa, New York and West Virginia, are outstanding and that they point the way to rapid development.

Another writes that in a meeting of the Extension Committee this year, "it became very clear that because of different conditions" Extension programs may be classified in two groups, (1) those beginning with institutions and endeavoring to develop more of the philosophy of living through these institutions already established and (2) those which begin with the community rather than the institutions of the community and proceed with programs on a citizenship basis. "Missouri is outstanding in the work which it has done in the second field, while Ohio, Kansas and Iowa" are proceeding through local institutions, organizations and agencies. "Regardless of the procedure or line of attack progress is evidenced through (1) increased acquaintance at meetings, (2) more definite appreciation of the differences in states (3) a clearer definition and appreciation of a common goal and (4) a recognition that the score-card plan may help in all cases to take inventories and to analyze local situations."

Nor was the field of resident or college teaching without evidence of progress. "The discussion of teaching in rural sociology showed that we are definitely demarking our field of endeavor", writes one. "There was evidence that more stress is being given to rural and urban relationships", writes another. "A real contribution came from those who had returned from their European trips through accounts of their insight into the European rural social situation", advises a third.

These reactions together with the decision of the editorial board of the Journal of the American Sociological Society to publish the proceedings of the meeting of the Rural Sociology Section, assures those of us who were not present that splendid progress has been made during the past year. "More progress this year" would be a fitting slogan for this year.

---000---

INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY LIFE COMMISSION REPORT.

The International Commission on Country Life, with a secretariat at Louvain, Belgium, has printed recently Bulletin No. 3 giving a full report of the International Conference at Brussels, last July on Country Life. Since this conference was practically the first international meeting at which America had representation, the report should be of interest to all teachers and extension workers in the field of rural sociology. American representatives at the meeting were Dr. K. L. Butterfield, president of Michigan Agricultural College, Dr. Dwight Sanderson, Cornell University, Dr. C. J. Galpin, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Miss Grace E. Frysinger, Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Prof. W. H. Stacy, Iowa State College, Dr. Newell Sims, Oberlin College, and Mr. Asher Hobson, Rome, Italy. Names of the delegates are mentioned throughout the report. Orders for the bulletin may be placed with Dr. C. J. Galpin, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Charge for the bulletin is limited to cost of printing and mailing, 40 cents per copy.

---000---

FARM POPULATION MONOGRAPH AVAILABLE.

"Farm Population in the United States", Census Monograph VI, 536 pp., by Mr. Leon E. Truesdell, marks a distinct forward step in the tabulation and analysis of data on farm population. This scientific summary and analysis of the 1920 census figures treats of the composition and distribution of farm population; the number, distribution, sex, age, race, nativity and percentage of farm, village and urban population; the classification of persons engaged in agricultural occupations and the detailed classification of farm population of eight counties. The detailed classification for the eight counties was planned by Dr. Galpin and carried out under the direction of Mrs. Veda B.L. Turner (Miss Larson) of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life.

Every research worker and teacher in the field of rural social and economic organization will do well to have a copy of this book available for reference and study. Copies may be obtained direct by addressing the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for \$1.75 each, which should accompany the order.

---000---

NEW BOOKS ON AGRICULTURAL VILLAGES.

"American Agricultural Villages" fresh from the George H. Doran Company press, is a commendable treatise of a sort of "no man's land" in the field of rural social research somewhere between the farming community and the urban community. This volume (325 pages) which consists of well interpreted statistical tables, charts and graphs, is the work of Dr. Edmund doS Brunner, Miss Gwendolyn Hughes and Miss Marjorie Patten of the Institute of Social and Religious Research. It is a companion piece to "American Villagers" by Dr. C. Luther Fry, also of the Institute of Religious and Social Research, May 1926.

The data on which "American Agricultural Villages" is based were obtained primarily by the survey method. Trained workers, in teams of two, spent from two to three weeks in each of 140 agricultural villages, ranging from 250 to 2,500 population each, well distributed throughout the United States. These workers obtained qualitative and quantitative facts about the many aspects of the life of the village and of the open country surrounding the village. The entire study approaches the problem from the standpoint of village and open-country and interrelationships and "attempts to show not only what agricultural villages are like but how they function as service stations for the surrounding countryside".

Included in the book are chapters on Agricultural Conditions at the Time of the Study, Structure of the Village Community, Village and Country Relations, The Village as a Farm Service Station, The Village Public School, The Village Church, Village Social Organizations, Public Health in Villages, The Village as a Body Politic, and Measuring Variations in Village Wealth. In addition, there are appendices on the scope and method of study and the setting of the 140 villages.

"American Villagers", by Dr. Fry deals in statistical terms with the problems of these 140 villages. Data for this study, as of 1920, were obtained from the files of the United States Census Bureau. Consideration is given to the number of villages there are, the kind of people living in agricultural villages, what villagers do for a living, and the functions which villagers perform.

These two books represent a new approach to the study of rural migration. They should be available for reference and reading by all investigators and teachers in the field of rural social research.

---oOo---

NEW BOOKS ON RURAL SOCIOLOGY.

Two recent books of interest to the teacher and extension worker in the field of rural social organization, as well as to investigators in rural social research are "Rural Sociology" by Carl C. Taylor and "The Sociology of Rural Life" by Horace B. Hawthorn. The former, edited by F. Stuart Chapin, is published by Harper and Brothers and the latter, edited by E. A. Ross, is published by the Century Company.

---oOo---

BETTER COMMUNITY MOVEMENT IS COMMENDABLE.

The Art Extension Committee of the University of Illinois staged a unique Better Community movement program in connection with the annual Farmers' Week activities held at Urbana in January.

Moving pictures and illustrated talks displayed the artistic side of things from corn borer to home furnishings. "Identification of Trees and Shrubs", "City Planning", "More Art-Better Homes" and "Art in Home Life" are included among the talks and addresses given by such authorities as Mr. Lorado Taft.

The principal objective of the entire meeting, as well as of similar meetings held annually, is expressed in the "preamble" of the Art Extension Committee as follows:

"The purpose of the Art Extension Committee is to assist in making art a more potent elevating force in the lives of the people of the State of Illinois. It aims to help the people to discover beauty in nature and to enjoy it, to recognize beauty in art and to appreciate it, and to stimulate the production of beautiful things."

A worthy objective for the farm folk as well as the city folk of any state, we think. Information as to the organization and accomplishments of the Art Extension Committee may be obtained from Professor R. E. Hieronymus, Community Adviser, University of Illinois.

---(00)---

INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY LIFE CONFERENCE
AUGUST 4-6, AT EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN.

Many of our readers have learned already that the second International Country Life Conference will be held in the United States, at East Lansing, Michigan, August 4-6, inclusive, 1927. The conference will be in English.

Those attending the conference are invited to participate in all the exercises of "Country Life Week", which is a part of the anniversary program celebrating both the seventieth anniversary of the launching of the first American agricultural college, and the tenth anniversary of the American Country Life Association.

"The conference of the latter association is a joint conference with the American Farm Economics Association, on the general subject, 'Farm Income and Farm Life', and promises to be a discussion of unusual value both to those interested in such problems as cooperation or other economic questions in agriculture, and to those whose peculiar interest is attached to the work of social institutions and, in general, the improvement of the quality of rural life."

The American Country Life Conference will be preceded by a number of other meetings which will last from one or two days a week or more, and will have their closing exercises on Monday, August 1.

"At this time, it is not possible to announce the list of speakers for the International Country Life Conference. There will be, however, brief reports from each country on the outstanding work for social and economic development of the rural population. There will be reports from committees on the problems of research, on the common elements to be found in the task of rural community development the world over, and on the teaching and training of rural life leaders, as well as a discussion of the constitution and future work of the International Country Life Commission".

Among the allied conferences at East Lansing during the week of July 30 to August 5 are the National Catholic Rural Life, Farm Womens Institute, School for Managers and Directors of Cooperative Associations, School for Leadership for College Students Interested in Rural Life, School for Rural Pastors and The World Agriculture Society.

---c0c---

NEW BULLETINS ON COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION.

"Community Organization in Missouri", by B. L. Hummel, a 72 page bulletin, is of interest to all extension workers in the field of rural social organization. The Rural Community, The Standard Community Association, Agricultural Extension Work on a Community Basis, and Where the Community can get Help, are among the major topics treated.

---c0c---

COMMITTEE OF THE RURAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR 1927.

Members of the Steering Committee of the Rural Section of the American Sociological Society elected at the St. Louis meeting December 29-30 are:

Dr. E. L. Kirkpatrick, Chairman,
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Carle C. Zimmerman,
University of Minnesota, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dr. Eben Mumford,
Michigan Agricultural College, East Lansing, Michigan.

The Steering Committee announces the following standing committee and special committee members for the present year:

Publication

Dr. Carl C. Fayler, North Carolina State College
Prof. Walter Burr, Kansas State Agricultural College
Prof. E. L. Morgan, University of Missouri

Population

Dr. B. L. Melvin, New York State College, Cornell University
Dr. Warren H. Thompson, Scripps Research Foundation, Miami University
Dr. Luther C. Fry, Institute of Social and Religious Research

Research

Prof. W. A. Anderson, North Carolina State College
Prof. J. F. Thaden, Michigan State College
Prof. E. A. Willson, North Dakota Agricultural College

Teaching

Prof. J. L. Hypes, Connecticut Agricultural College
Prof. L. D. Howell, Oklahoma A. and M. College
Prof. F. R. Yoder, Washington State College

Extension

Prof. Theo. B. Manny, Hendricks College, Conway, Arkansas
Prof. W. H. Stacey, Iowa State College
Prof. Mary E. Duthie, New York State College, Cornell University

---00---

CONFERENCE FOR PURNELL WORKERS IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY.

The "week's school of research methods" in rural sociology referred to in a preceding item will convene at Purdue University, April 4 - 9, 1927. The tentative program lists among those who will give addresses and take part in the discussions, Dr. Robert E. Park, and Dr. E. W. Burgess, University of Chicago, Dr. C. E. Gilke, Western Reserve University, Dr. E. W. Allen of the Office of Experiment Stations, and Dr. C. J. Galpin, Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Preparations for the conference are in charge of Dr. G. I. Christie, Purdue University, Chairman, and Dr. C. C. Fayler, North Carolina State College, Secretary, Purnell Committee on Rural Social Research.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO OTHER WORKERS DESIRED.

We hereby renew and re-emphasize the request on page one for information of interest to workers in the field of rural sociology. The launching of new programs of work or of projects of research, the progress of work under way and the completion of units of study may well be made known to other workers through "Farm Population and Rural Life Activities". New bulletins and timely articles in the periodicals should be mentioned. Our readers can render a service to others by reporting things of interest promptly.

E. L. Kirkpatrick.

---00c---

FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM
POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 1, 1927

Vol. 1, No. 2

CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH METHODS IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY.

"Even better than I had expected it would be", was the common expression of all the delegates at the closing session of the first conference on research methods in rural sociology held under the auspices of the Land Grant College Association at Purdue University, April 4 to 9. To discover ways and means of advancing and improving research work in rural sociology under the Purnell Act was the main purpose or objective of the conference. Thirty-five delegates, not including local representatives from Purdue University, were in attendance. States represented by these delegates ranged from California, Montana and Colorado on the west to Connecticut and New York on the east, and from Minnesota and Michigan on the north to South Carolina and Arkansas on the south. Twenty-two of the delegates present are actually conducting or have completed projects with Purnell funds in the field of rural sociology.

The conference was opened by Dr. G. I. Christie, Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Purdue University, and Chairman of the Purnell Committee on Rural Social Organizations and Agencies (rural sociology) of the Land Grant College Association, with the statement that each of the delegates had come with the specific purpose of obtaining help on one or another of the problems confronting him in his home state. Each delegate was urged to frame his problems for statement at one of the conference sessions during the week. Whole-hearted response to Director Christie's request gave directness and vitality to each of the conference sessions.

As summarized by the conference steering committee of which Dr. Carl C. Taylor, Dean of the Graduate School of the North Carolina State College served as secretary, the program of work for the week fell into four divisions of procedure. These divisions are listed and discussed in the report of the steering committee practically as follows:

- I. Presentation and discussion of current projects in rural sociology at the various stations or colleges.
- II. The work of committees which digested reports and formulated recommendations on projects and procedure.
- III. Formal presentation of specific topics dealing with subject matter and research methods.

- IV. General discussions of the problems confronting the various experiment stations and rural sociology workers in carrying on their work in the furtherance of research in rural sociology.

These various features or divisions of the program were handled in the following manner:

- I. Presentation and discussion of current projects in rural sociology of the various stations.

The conference group was insistent upon going immediately to a critical analysis of the rural sociology projects now under way at the various agricultural experiment stations. By agreement each project was presented according to the following outline:

1. What the project is
2. The statement of the problem
3. The method of investigating the problem
4. The results obtained as far as the project has gone
5. Critical analysis of the project in reference to both character and method of investigation, as well as difficulties encountered.

Each person present was given an opportunity to present research projects which he had in hand, covering the above points. All of the reports on projects in the same field were then made a basis of discussion through question and answer/^{and} finally referred to a special committee composed of workers in that field.

- II. The work of committees which digested reports and formulated recommendations on projects and procedure.

The formation of the committee was on the basis of the standard projects recommended in the 1926 report of the Purnell committee on rural social organizations and agencies. Every person in attendance served on one or more of these committees. These committees bore the real burden of the institute by many and frequent meetings. Each committee first formulated a report on the project for which it was responsible and reported back to the general meeting. Each committee report was then discussed in detail and referred back to the committee for the incorporation of such suggestions as were agreed upon by the conference group. The second and amended report of each committee was then resubmitted to the general body and after further discussion was adopted and is incorporated in this report.

There were four committees serving in this manner representing the following fields of investigational studies:

1. Standard of living
2. Sociology of rural groups
3. Population: composition and change
4. Young people's organizations as a factor in rural life

In addition to committees on the four standard projects other committees considered and reported on projects relating to group attitudes and psychological studies and on other miscellaneous projects which are now in progress at the various experiment stations.

At the closing session of the conference committees were appointed to give consideration to formulating further projects on:

1. Rural attitude and psychological studies
2. Sociology of the farm and village family
3. The social and physical background of country life in the state (this was suggested as a possible first study in a state where little of such work had been developed).

III. Formal presentation of specific topics dealing with subject matter and research methods.

The institute was fortunate in being able to obtain men of recognized ability and authority to present in more formal fashion methods of research which have special application to the field of rural sociology. Such presentations were as follows:

1. The Use and Limitation of the Statistical Method in Rural Social Research, by Dr. E. C. Gelhke, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, and Dr. C. Luther Fry of the Institute of Social and Religious Research, New York City.

These discussions were of unusual interest and value to the research workers in the field of rural sociology because, as these speakers made clear, it is very difficult to isolate phenomena and elements in a social situation and the statistical method furnishes a tool by which such isolation can be accomplished in a scientific way. Many members of the group took occasion to go over with these men in detail questions arising out of their own research projects.

2. Scientific Methods in Urban Social Research, presented by Dr. R. E. Park of the University of Chicago.

Dr. Park stated that his first insight into methods which might be used in analyzing complex urban communities, such as Chicago, was obtained from the early studies made by Dr. C. J. Galpin in the field of rural sociology. Dr. Park's contribution consisted of an analysis of how problems for research are discovered and how one problem of research in a given social situation naturally leads to another. His expression "frame of reference" as a base from which to project specific studies was used continually during the various discussions throughout the conference.

3. Comparison of the Relation of Economic and Social Research, was presented by Prof. O. G. Lloyd of Purdue University and Dr. H. C. Taylor of the Institute of Land Economics, Northwestern University, Chicago.

These men coming from a field closely related to rural sociology made specific and valuable contributions with reference to scientific methods and to the fields of study which were recognized during the conference. Each pictured clearly points of relationship and possible lines of cooperative effort between the agricultural economists and the rural sociologists in rural research.

4. Research on the American Village, by Edmund deS Brunner of the Institute of Social and Religious Research, New York City.

Methods of research employed in the study of 177 agricultural villages distributed all over the United States were presented in an interesting fashion. Methods which were particularly successful as well as those which finally resulted in the necessity of complete change of procedure were detailed. The place of the agricultural village in future rural life was of decided importance and required additional study on the part of various states in the light of this nationwide study.

5. The Fundamentals of Scientific Research in Rural Sociology, by Dr. Dwight Sanderson of Cornell University and Dr. Eben Mumford of Michigan State Agricultural College.

These two papers dealt with the delineation of the fields of study for rural sociology. Emphasis was given to the necessity of building up a science of rural sociology.

6. An Historical Analysis of Methodology in Rural Social Research was presented by Dr. C. J. Galpin of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S.D.A.

First a narrative presentation was given of the historical development of the whole field of research in rural sociology. This had particular interest because of Dr. Galpin's part in this development from the very beginning. This information was also presented in analytical form. The projects which have recently been completed and which are now in progress in the various states were described. These were presented graphically by states as well as by fields of study.

7. The Relation of Research in Rural Sociology to Agricultural Extension Work, was discussed by Director G. I. Christie of the Agricultural Experiment Station of Purdue University.

Dr. Christie pictured the necessity of specific knowledge concerning population, composition, and changes, social institutions and group organizations in order that extension workers may approach their local problems and conduct their various extension programs more effectively. It was emphasized that agriculture is in a particularly crucial condition and is therefore vitally in need of a clear knowledge of what is happening in the field of human and community relationships in rural areas.

IV. General discussions of the problems confronting the various experiment stations and rural sociology workers in carrying on their work in the furtherance of research and rural sociology.

This discussion centered particularly around such problems as the training of research workers, the publication of research findings, the need for more detailed data gathered by the U. S. Census bearing on farm population and farm statistics and the plans with reference to future institutes to further the effectiveness of rural social research."

The steering committee consisting of Dr. G. I. Christie, Chairman; Dr. Carl C. Taylor, Dr. Dwight Sanderson, Dr. J. H. Kolb, Professor E. L. Morgan, Dr. Eben Mumford and Dr. C. J. Galpin deserve commendation from all who are interested in the field of rural social research. In session at breakfast, luncheon and dinner hours each day the members of this committee furnished leadership and guidance which directed the trend of the conference in the most effective channels.

The foregoing summary does not constitute the report of the Committee on Rural Social Organization and Agencies (rural sociology) to the general Purnell Committee of the Land Grant College Association. This report which may include newly proposed projects and other items of interest will be brought to the attention of our readers as soon as it is available.

E. L. Kirkpatrick

---cOo---

PURDUE UNIVERSITY FACULTY GIVES DINNER FOR
PURNELL CONFERENCE DELEGATES.

A 6 o'clock dinner given by the faculty of Purdue University on Tuesday April 5 to delegates attending the conference on research methods in rural sociology was the occasion of much merriment as well as of serious consideration of some of the outstanding rural life problems. Dr. G. I. Christie, as toastmaster, introduced Dr. J. H. Skinner, Dean of the College of Agriculture, and Dr. E. C. Elliott, President of the University, each of whom extended a cordial welcome to the rural sociologists. Dr. Elliott stressed in a clear and effective way the need for a more favorable attitude of farm people toward farming and farm life. At the request of Dr. Christie, Dr. C. J. Galpin, Economist in Charge of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, responded for the rural sociologists to the addresses given by Dr. Skinner and Dr. Elliott.

---cOo---

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF DELEGATES ATTENDING
PURNELL CONFERENCE.

Names and addresses of the delegates attending the conference on research in rural sociology at Purdue, in an official capacity, are as follows:

(Dr. G. I. Christie and	
(Prof. O. G. Lloyd	LaFayette, Indiana
Prof. C. E. Allred	Knoxville, Tennessee
Prof. J. Wheeler Barger	Bozeman, Montana
Prof. B. F. Coen	Fort Collins, Colorado
(Dr. C. Luther Fry and	(Institute of Social and Religious
(Dr. Edmund deS Brunner	(Research, New York City
Prof. J. A. Dickey	Fayetteville, Arkansas
(Dr. C. J. Galpin and	(Bureau of Agricultural Economics,
(Dr. E. L. Kirkpatrick	(Washington, D. C.
Dr. W. E. Garnett	Blacksburg, Virginia
Prof. F. L. Griffin	Ithaca, N. Y. (representing Calif.)
Prof. T. L. Harris	Morgantown, West Virginia
Dr. C. R. Hutchinson	Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago
Dr. J. H. Kolb	Madison, Wisconsin
Dr. C. E. Gehlke	(Western Reserve University
	(Cleveland, Ohio

(Continued)	
Prof. W. F. Kumlien	Brookings, South Dakota
Prof. C. E. Lively	Columbus, Ohio
Prof. Albert Z. Mann	Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn.
Prof. Theodore B. Manny	Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas
(Dr. Bruce L. Melvin and	
(Dr. Dwight Sanderson	Ithaca, New York
Prof. E. L. Morgan	Columbia, Missouri
(Dr. Eben Mumford and	
(Prof. J. F. Thaden	East Lansing, Michigan
Dr. R. E. Park	Chicago University, Chicago
Prof. R. E. Stewart	Ames, Iowa
(Dr. C. C. Taylor and	
(Prof. W. A. Anderson	Raleigh, North Carolina
Prof. Carle C. Zimmerman	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Prof. E. A. Willson	Fargo, North Dakota
Prof. G. H. Aull	Clemson College, South Carolina
Prof. J. L. Hypes	Storrs, Connecticut
Dr. H. C. Taylor	(Northwestern University
	(Evanston, Illinois
Miss Margaret Coffin	College Park, Maryland
F. G. Haraden	(Office of Experiment Stations,
	(Washington, D. C.

In addition to Dr. Christie and Prof. Lloyd, other representatives from Purdue University attending the conference included Dr. E. C. Elliott, President of the University, Dr. J. H. Skinner, Dean of Agriculture, Prof. W. V. Kell, assistant County Agent Leader, Prof. W. Q. Fitch, Supt. of Farmers' Institutes, Prof. Lynn Robertson, farm management extension worker, Prof. G. M. Frier, supt. of short courses, Prof. T. A. Coleman, assistant director of extension, Prof. O. F. Hall, sociologist, and Miss Miriam Rapp and Miss Ruth Jordan, home economists.

---000---

PURNELL CONFERENCE ECHOES.

Reasons why the Purdue Conference exceeded the expectations of those in attendance are gleaned from letters received from a number of the delegates as well as from copies of formal reports made by several of the delegates to their station directors.

"I think I learned more at the Purnell conference than I have at all the annual meetings of the scientific societies I have ever attended", writes Prof. Carle C. Zimmerman, University of Minnesota. "In the first place, we did away with all but the minimum of formal program; second, all the men who reported were limited to less than fifteen minutes; third, only those men reported who were conducting research in that particular problem; fourth, there was an absolute freedom in the counter criticism and discussion; and fifth, all the men who attended the meeting were research specialists.

The big achievement of the meeting was the definition of the field of rural sociology. When we realize that all of our research is built around problems of rural living, problems of population and problems of rural organization and institutions, and that these three are closely interrelated, then we know the scope of our subject. When we study rural children we know we are studying a problem which is related to the three major divisions of our subject. This in itself is the achievement, par excellence, of the conference."

Prof. R. E. Stewart, Iowa State College, comments on the conference as follows: "In discussing methods, comparing projects, and defining objectives, there came a clearing of the vision and a strengthening of purposes in rural social research which were of great value. The encouragement and inspiration arising out of a clearer comprehension of the whole problem of rural life, gave the conference the highest significance."

According to W. A. Anderson, North Carolina State College, "The conference made two outstanding contributions. In the first place, the conference was long enough for each man to become well acquainted with the other men working in the field, what they were working at, and the results they hoped to attain. This developed a group morale, a professional spirit, and a scientific attitude which could not otherwise have been achieved. In the second place, the reporting of the projects in progress throughout the country gave a comprehensive view of what rural sociologists deem the first essential steps in their research program, and aided in laying the proper foundation for a long-time research program."

"I was particularly impressed with the fine spirit of friendliness, democracy and cooperation which prevailed", writes Prof. E. A. Willson, North Dakota Agricultural College. "Every one was given an opportunity to present his projects and problems, and the criticisms and suggestions were not only constructive and of real value, but were most friendly. As a result of the conference I will be able to plan a more logical research program, outline projects with greater definiteness of purpose, conduct investigations with less waste of time and effort, and assemble material into reports which will be more logical and of greater value".

"The conference revealed to me first, the need of thorough knowledge and constant application of statistical methods to social phenomena where ever possible by all workers in the field; second, the feasibility of mechanical tabulation in projects where it is not now used; third, the practicability of mimeographing preliminary reports; and fourth, the necessity of each agency outlining a series of social research projects closely related to one another", writes Prof. J.F. Thaden, Michigan State College.

"Probably the most valuable help received from the conference was in getting acquainted with the other rural sociology workers from the different regions of the United States", writes W. F. Kumlien, South Dakota Agricultural College. "The next best thing was to hear the discussions on various types of projects and to discover the strong points as well as the limitations placed upon them by the various workers. Personally, I gained a great deal of confidence and inspiration from the conference."

"One of the best results of the conference was the clarity of group opinion and common purpose developed among the sociologists present. I have rarely seen better teamwork in an academic group", states Prof. C. E. Lively, Ohio State University.

"The conference was a genuine inspiration" to Prof. Hutchison, Research Associate, University of Chicago, (not a Purnell worker but a participant at the conference). "It gave me new confidence in the rich possibilities of rural research and threw a light upon the best known methods of procedure. I find myself back in my field of research with clear-cut plans and definite means of gathering data."

Although not a Purnell worker, Prof. Theodore B. Manny, Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas, feels that the conference was worth many times its cost and trusts that it will be made an annual affair with perhaps a section for colleges not using Purnell funds, yet pursuing research in the rural field. "The help obtained by way of suggestions in technique has caused me to revise plans for two surveys which I had projected for next year, these changes being principally in the direction of securing data which can be carried further by statistical manipulations", says Prof. Manny.

"The conference helped me to orient myself in the field; to evaluate the different types of projects; and to judge as to the best methods to pursue in attacking a given problem," writes Prof. C. E. Allred, University of Tennessee. "It gave me a better understanding than I had before of the strong and weak points in the project outlines which I have under way, and will be helpful to me in carrying these projects to a successful conclusion".

"Each one went away much enlightened as to the various types of social research now being carried on throughout the country and with a clearer concept of the subject matter and methodology he might employ in his own research", writes Prof. J. E. Hypes, Connecticut Agricultural College. "One could not help but be stimulated by the enthusiasm and the hopefulness of those present who have been doing successful rural social research for many years.

"I regard personal contacts with workers in a similar field as one of the most significant things which I got from the meeting," states Prof. B. F. Coen, State Agricultural College of Colorado. "When the representative from Colorado sits down at a table with representatives from the Dakotas, Illinois, Montana and Washington, D. C., the representative from Colorado is going to benefit. The wholesome philosophy of Dr. Henry C. Taylor, Dr. C. J. Galpin, Dr. Eben Mumford and others sent us back to our jobs determined to serve our generation better or know the reason why".

As summarized by Prof. T. L. Harris, West Virginia University, success of the conference was due to "The splendid spirit of friendly cooperation, to stimulating, straight-forward discussion, to the discriminating analysis of specific problems, and to the generous hospitality of Dr. Christie, Prof. Lloyd and other Purdue people."

Miss Margaret Coffin, University of Maryland found the conference "extremely stimulating and helpful." "It was great to have puzzling details described from different points and clarified and to see my own project in the light of the others", writes Miss Coffin.

Dr. B. L. Melvin, Cornell University, feels that each delegate obtained from the conference, direct suggestions for his own particular projects and that, "as the final resolutions were drawn up definite lines for rural sociological development were forecast".

Dr. Robert E. Park, University of Chicago, writes "The thing that impressed me most during my brief attendance upon the sessions of the conference was the simple fact that a group of students whose interests had been mainly practical had come together from all over the country to discuss not ways and means for solving social problems, but methods of investigating them. It was another evidence that sociology had ceased to be a social philosophy merely, and was in a way to become a social science."

According to Dr. Carl C. Taylor, North Carolina State College, secretary of the Purnell committee on rural sociology, "The thing which accomplished great good was the way the delegates laid their projects on the table, subjected them to self analysis and opened them for criticisms. I think the school did more to crystallize sentiment in favor of the standardized project than anything else that could happen. I believe the existence of this conference guarantees that we will shoot pretty close to the bull's eye in the future with a result that the next few years will see some very definite and outstanding results in the field of rural social research."

From a copy of his report to Director H. L. Russell, we note that Dr. J. H. Kolb, University of Wisconsin, sees the significant contribution of the conference in the "spirit or morale" developed among the delegates. "This was the first time the group had ever been together. It took about a full day to get the conference swung into line with its main purpose simply because the men did not know each other and did not know just how to take hold in detailing work. This was particularly interesting to observe when the last day's session was compared with that of the first day. Everyone had his way for there was no restraint, yet on the other hand, through the committee system there was a driving force which got things done. Much credit for the success of this undertaking must be placed at the door of Director Christie of Purdue. He was in every single session, three a day, for the full period of the week, giving it activity, leadership, wise counsel at every turn, but without any domination whatever."

"A proper appraisal of the worth of such a conference cannot be made without giving large consideration to the guiding influences which make it possible", is gleaned from copy of the report of Prof. Aull, Clemson Agricultural College, to Director H. W. Barre. "Such influences are not revealed in a casual glance at the program. They are felt only by those who rub shoulders with the men themselves and receive from them knowledge, guidance, and inspiration".

"It was my privilege to serve as a representative for Director E. D. Merrill, California Agricultural Experiment Station", writes Prof. F. L. Griffin, Cornell University; "and I have advised him that, in my judgement, the conference accomplished several worth while things, namely: reached an agreement relative to the type of projects that are to be regarded as basic in sociological research; made progress in the adoption of a common terminology; gave many of the delegates a better notion of what constitutes scientific method in sociological research; indicated the interdependence of economists and sociologists in such research and emphasized the danger of undertaking research involving social psychology when adequate objective data are not available."

---000---

FARM POPULATION CONTINUES TO DECREASE.

Farm population of the United States continues to decrease, according to figures released by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, on April 20, 1927. The year 1926 had the biggest decrease since 1920, 649,000 persons. The number of persons living on farms January 1, 1927, is estimated at 27,892,000 against 28,541,000 January 1, 1926. The 1925 agricultural census figure, 28,982,000, was used as a base for the Bureau's calculations.

It is estimated that 2,155,000 persons moved from farms to cities, towns and villages last year, and that 1,135,000 persons moved to farms, making a net movement of 1,020,000 persons away from farms. Births on farms during 1926 are estimated at 658,000 and deaths at 287,000, leaving a natural increase of 371,000 persons, which reduced the loss due to cityward movement to 649,000.

The Bureau's figures for 1925, revised on the basis of the 1925 agricultural census, show a net loss of 441,000 persons in farm population that year. The gross movement from farms to cities was 1,900,000 and the gross movement to farms 1,066,000, making a net movement to cities, not counting births and deaths, of 834,000 persons.

Copies of the press release showing net decreases by sections of the United States may be obtained from the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life.

---000---

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK:

Among the topics of interest to our readers, discussed at the fifty-fourth annual meeting of the National Conference of Social Work, Des Moines, Iowa, May 11 - 18, are "The Social Aspects of Rural Life", "The Untouched Field of Social Work; the Rural District and the Small Town", "Family Life in the Rural Community", "The Challenge of the Rural Community - Social and Economic", and "Hospital Needs of Rural Districts".

Prof. E. L. Morgan of the University of Missouri handled "The Challenge of the Rural Community" before the section on "Neighborhood and Community Life". In addition Prof. Morgan appeared before the sections on Organization of Social Forces and Professional Standards and Education with papers on "Organizing the Distinctly Rural Community" and "Field Practice in Education for Social Work".

Miss Ruth Haefner, of the Child Welfare Research Station, University of Iowa, presented the paper on "Family Life in the Rural Community". Dr. George H. Von Tungen, Iowa State College, discussed "Methods and Results of Rural Social Research", Mr. Henry Israel, Executive Secretary of the American Country Life Association, presided at the general session dealing with the social aspects of rural life and Dr. John L. Gillin, University of Wisconsin, presided at a sectional meeting on "The Country Institution in Rural Social Work".

---000---

AMERICAN COUNTRY LIFE ASSOCIATION MEETING.

Brief mention of the tenth annual conference of the American Country Life Association to be held at East Lansing, Michigan, August 1 - 4, 1927, in connection with the seventieth anniversary program of the Michigan Agricultural College and the second International Country Life Conference was made in the preceding issue of "Activities". The Association is fortunate in having the cooperation of the American Farm Economics Association in the planning of a program on the topic "Farm Income and Farm Life". Articles prepared by forty or more collaborators and edited by Dr. Dwight Sanderson, Cornell University, will form the principal bases for conference discussions. Copies of Dr. Sanderson's report are available from the office of the American Country Life Association, Room 1849, Grand Central Terminal, New York City.

Included among the addresses listed on the program are: "An Introductory Statement as to Terms", Dr. Dwight Sanderson; "What is an Adequate Farm Income?", Dr. J. D. Black; "The Relation of Farm Income to Successful Farming", Prof. O. G. Lloyd; "The Relation of Farm Income and the Standard of Life", Dr. H. C. Taylor; "The Relation of Standard of Life to Successful Farming", Dr. E. L. Kirkpatrick; and "Measure of Rural Progress", Dr. C. J. Galpin, Mr. E. C. Lindgren and Mr. L. J. Tabor. Suggested discussion topics and leaders include "Education and Income and Living", Prof. M. S. Pittman; "Health and Income and Living", Dr. W. F. Draper; "Recreation and Income and Living", Mr. R. G. Foster; "Religion and Income and Living", Prof. Ralph Adams; "Family and Income and Living", Dr. Hazel Kyrk; and "Legislation and Income and Living", Mr. J. Clyde Marquis. Dr. Carl C. Taylor will serve as "general discussion" leader. Dean A. R. Mann is scheduled to give the "final conference expression."

The closing session of the conference will be followed by the Michigan Farmers' Day at which 6,000 farm people are expected to be present and by the International Country Life Conference with delegates from many foreign countries.

---000---

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETS IN WASHINGTON.

The twenty-second annual meeting of the American Sociological Society will be held in Washington, D. C., December 27 to 30, 1927. The central topic for the main session will be "The Relation of the Individual to the Group." Sub-committees of the steering committee of the Rural Sociology Section are at work on the preparation of a tentative program. Suggestions are welcomed by the steering committee of which Dr. E. L. Kirkpatrick, Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is chairman.

---oOo---

NATIONAL RECREATION SCHOOL.

An announcement of the summer session of the National Recreation School of the Playground and Recreation Association of America shows among the courses to be given community organization, community recreation, community drama and pageantry, community music, community leadership, hand-craft and folk dancing. The school will be in session from June 27 to August 5, 1927, at the Heckscher Foundation Building, New York City. Mr. Peter W. Dykema, Mr. Joseph Lee, Mr. Weaver, W. Pingburn, Miss Elizabeth Hanley and Miss Madeline Stevens are among the teachers listed for the session.

---oOo---

AMERICAN HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION MEETS AT ASHEVILLE.

The twentieth annual meeting of the American Home Economics Association will be held at Asheville, North Carolina, June 21 - 24, 1927. The standing committee on economic and social problems of the home, of which Mrs. Chase Going Woodhouse is chairman, has been allotted two afternoon sessions and one evening session. Plans have been made for one joint session of the committee with the homemaker's section for the purpose of discussing "the possibilities of women contributing to the cash income of the family by work carried on in their own homes or in part time positions".

Mrs. Rosalind A. Redfearn will tell of her success as leader of a marketing project among women and girls of North Carolina farm districts.

One of the sessions will be devoted to reports and discussion of research and the other may be given over to a round table discussion of introductory courses in sociology and economics in the field of home economics.

---oOo---

MARYLAND RURAL MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

The annual "Rural Life School and Conference for Maryland Ministers" will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park, June 13 - 24, 1927. Prof. S. H. DeVault is in charge of the School. Among the speakers, not including those from the University of Maryland, are Dr. C. J. Galpin, Mr. J. Clyde Marquis, and Mr. J. B. Hutson, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; Mrs. C. G. Woodhouse, Bureau of Home Economics; Prof. Ralph Felton, Cornell University.

---oOo---

JOINT STUDY OF FARM BUSINESS AND FARM FAMILY LIVING.

Field work on the first unit of a series of joint studies of farm business and farm family living is well under way. The Division of Farm Population and Rural Life and the Division of Farm Management and Costs, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, are cooperating with the Department of Rural Economics, Ohio State University in carrying out the first unit of study.

One of the principal objectives of these studies is to determine the amount and sources of family income and the amount and purposes of expenditures among farm families of selected farming areas in which a low level of both income and expenditures prevail. Localities in Jackson, Vinton and Meigs Counties, Ohio, have been chosen as typical of one of these areas. Approximately 100 families in each of these three localities are being visited for the essential data concerning gross income and its sources and the amounts and costs (or values) of all goods used for family living purposes for the year ending March 31, 1927. Another objective of the study is to point out opportunities for increasing and for more judiciously spending the farm and the family income. State extension workers will aid in attaining this objective.

Dr. E. L. Kirkpatrick and Mr. H. W. Hawthorne, representing the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and Dr. J. I. Falconer, Head of the Department of Rural Economics, Ohio State University, are in charge of the study. Messrs. Merton Oyler, H. E. Curry, H. W. Starr, and H. D. Saxton are assisting with the field work.

A double schedule is being used by two workers, - one obtains from the farm operator information on farm returns and expenses and the other obtains from the homemaker information on the amounts and costs of the different kinds of goods used for family living purposes. Tabulation of the combined data for each family should reveal means of improvement in income getting and income spending in the communities or localities studied.

It is hoped that the series of studies may be extended to other localities of other states of the particular larger area or region involved, as well as of other similar areas. The Western Appalachian area, the Great Plains regions and the cut-over lands of the North Central States, especially, have localities characteristic of the farm return and family living levels desired for study. Colleges or individuals interested in cooperating in a unit of the study are urged to write the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

---oOo---

STUDY OF FACTORS INFLUENCING LOCATION AND
FUNCTIONING OF RURAL GROUPS.

In cooperation with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, Prof. Fred R. Yoder of the State College of Washington, is arranging for a study of the factors influencing the effective location and functioning of rural groups of Clark County, Washington. Field work will start about July 1.

Prof. Yoder plans to analyze and map the county area into the different population groups, to study the historic changes during the past 30 years in these groups, to ascertain trends of new group alignments, to study comparatively the function, services, and interrelated characters of the different types of groups and to determine the relation of type groups to social and economic institutions of the area studied.

---oOo---

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS.

A summary prepared for use in connection with the Institute on Research Methods in Rural Sociology, Purdue University, shows the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life to have participated in 84 projects during the eight years of its existence. All but eleven of these 84 projects have been on a cooperative basis with universities, state colleges or other institutions or agencies.

Eight of the completed cooperative projects dealt with local and state rural social institutions and agencies; eight had to do with the social and economic aspects of farm tenancy; seven dealt with the farmer's standard of living; four pertained to primary population groups; and four studied some of the different phases of rural relations of village, town and small city.

The majority of the incompletd cooperative projects deal with rural social organization and rural institutions, organizations and enterprises. Other incompletd projects include the farmer's standard of living, town-country relationships and rural and farm population composition and changes.

Completed non-cooperative projects include the national influence of a single farm community, the farmer's standard of living, rural community buildings, rural hospitals, rural planning and farm population of selected counties. Incompleted non-cooperative projects are the farmer's standard of living, rural libraries, rural community buildings and an annual survey of migration to and from farms.

Thirteen of the incompleted and one of the completed cooperative projects are on Purnell funds.

---oOo---

RURAL LIFE AT THE CROSSROADS.

"Rural Life at the Crossroads", a new book by the late Prof. Macey Campbell, Iowa State Teachers College, is of interest to all who are concerned with the welfare of the American farmer. In his attempt to value and combine the various elements of the American Agricultural situation so as to give a proper place and setting to the education of farm boys and girls and of the young adult farmer himself, the author has displayed a versatile appreciation of farm life and its problems.

Contents of the book are indicated by the chapter headings as follows: Little business on the farms versus big business in the cities; technique of cooperative marketing; cooperative marketing laws; articles of incorporation and by-laws of cooperative marketing associations; marketing contracts in cooperative associations; the change in judicial decisions; the tariff, the surplus, and other problems of rural life; the land foundation of the modern rural community.

Stress is given to the technique and the benefits of agricultural cooperation. Throughout the book there is evidence of the author's desire to enlist the educational forces of the nation in behalf of an improvement of the farmer's economic position. "The hope of rural America lies in the education of its youth", the author writes. "Better education and better organization are the only hope of saving American life from peasantry, which many students of history declare to be the inevitable end of every agricultural people. If the American farm people are permitted to descend into peasantry they will eventually pull down the nation after them. This, too, is the warning of history. The hour is struck! Which way rural life?"

---oOo---

MAKING THE MOST OF AGRICULTURE.

"Making the most of agriculture" is the title of a new book by Theodore Macklin, and J. H. Kolb, Professors of Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin, and W. E. Grimes, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State Agricultural College. Efficient marketing, profitable farming and worth-while living are pictured as "segments of a philosophy of life which must be regarded as inseparable if agriculture is to be at once prosperous as a business and appealing as a life."

The authors hold that "agriculture stands at the crossroads. The old-time single emphasis of applying biological and physical sciences to agriculture is not enough. Selection of seeds and sires, analysis of soils, and the application of fertilizers, among other things, contribute much to farming. They do not, however, make plowing and feeding into a modern business. To guarantee that farm output shall be produced under business conditions is the task of applying economic principles and practices both to farm production and to the marketing of farm products. To make the work of agriculture as an occupation the pleasing and inspiring life it should be is the task of working out and utilizing the principles of rural sociology".

From the point of view "which unites the social sciences with the physical and biological sciences to make of agriculture the balanced opportunity for working and living which should be the heritage of every farm boy and girl", the authors build out of intimate association and practical experience a creditable text for teachers in the field of rural life.

The first chapter of the book treats of the "new point of view for agriculture". Following this twelve chapters are devoted to the different phases of efficient marketing, twelve to the factors pertaining to profitable farming and twelve to various aspects of worth while living. Exercises, suggested topics for discussion, and references for collateral reading accompany each chapter.

---oOo---

JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL SOCIOLOGY.

The Journal of Educational Sociology, a magazine of theory and practice, is announced, the first issue to appear September, 1927. Among the departments proposed are: Researches in educational sociology; contributors' page; news from the field; book reviews; inquiry; and readers' discussion. E. George Payne is editor in chief, with Harvey W. Zorbaugh, Frederick M. Thrasher and B. F. Stalcup, associate editors. Among the contributing editors are E. S. Borardus, F. Stewart Chapin, C. A. Ellwood, E. R. Groves, R. E. Park, David Snedden, H. A. Suzzallo and J. J. Tigert. Editorial offices will be located at 13 Astor Place, New York City.

---oOo---

SYLLABUS ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

"A Syllabus on Tennessee Economic and Social Conditions" should prove of interest to those who may be planning to outline courses in applied social sciences of "the students own county and state". The syllabus was prepared "to bring out more clearly than is done in the ordinary text book, the vital relationship of every day affairs and economic and social principles and to prepare youth to deal with public questions and perform their civic duties better and more intelligently", states the author, Prof. C. E. Allred, University of Tennessee.

---oOo---

REPORT ON COST OF FAMILY LIVING ON THE FARM AVAILABLE.

"Cost of Family Living on the Farm for the year ending April 1, 1925" is the title of a mimeographed preliminary report by C. E. Lively, from household accounts kept by 26 farm families in nine counties of Ohio. Goods purchased and furnished by the farm (except house rent) are taken into account. The item of rent was not obtained.

Goods used are classified in the report into food, clothing and dress, operating expenses, household furnishings and equipment, education, recreation, health, organization dues, church benevolence and gifts, life insurance, savings and investments, and unclassified.

Quantities of the various kinds of produce furnished by the farm are tabulated and evaluated at both farm prices and Columbus (city) prices, the latter being about 50 per cent higher than the former. An analysis by seasonal distribution shows that most cash was spent during November, December and January and least cash was spent during February, June, August and September. The study is being continued this year among a larger number of families by the Departments of Rural Economics and Home Economics, Ohio State University, cooperating.

---oOo---

REPORTS ON 86 FARM FAMILIES OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, VERMONT AVAILABLE.

Of interest to many workers in the field of rural social research, to those concerned with the farmer's standard of living especially, are two preliminary reports issued recently by the Bureau of Home Economics. One of these, by Dr. Edith Hawley deals with the quantities, money value and nutritive value of food consumed by 86 farm families in Franklin County, Vermont, 1923 - 1924. The other by Miss Euna L. Clark analyzes in detail the clothing expenditures for the same 86 families. Data for both of the reports were obtained by the survey method, as a part of the standard of living studies conducted jointly by the Bureau of Home Economics and Agricultural Economics. The Extension Service of the University of Vermont cooperated with the Bureau of Home Economics in collecting the data, for the 86 families.

---oOo---

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE REPORT.

A report of the conference of religious forces and state institutions of higher learning of Oklahoma should be of interest to teachers and extension workers, especially those concerned with the rural church. J. T. Sanders, Professor of Agricultural Economics and L. D. Howell, Professor of Rural Sociology, Oklahoma A. & M. College, and Paul L. Vogt, Dean of Extension, University of Oklahoma, are among those who participated in the conference which was held in Oklahoma City November 29 - 30, 1926. Copy of the report may be obtained from the Extension Division, University of Oklahoma.

---oOo---

BULLETIN ON RELIABILITY AND ADEQUACY OF FARM
PRICE DATA AVAILABLE.

Department bulletin 1480, United States Department of Agriculture, "Reliability and Adequacy of Farm Price Data", by Charles F. Sarle, will be found helpful to those who are using the statistical method in conducting rural social research. Farm price data on the different crops and live stock are considered from the standpoint of the number of reports necessary to obtain a given degree of reliability or stability in the average. The degree of reliability or stability is shown in terms of standard deviation, coefficient of variability, probable error of the mean, and relative probable error.

---oOo---

STRESSES PROBLEM APPROACH IN RURAL SOCIAL RESEARCH.

Professor O. G. Lloyd, in his paper on comparisons and relations of economic research at the Purnell Research workers conference, made an outstanding contribution in stressing the "central farm problem" approach. Quoting from the 1925 report of the committee on Experiment Station Organization and Policy with Special Reference to the Purnell Act, Prof. Lloyd reminded those present that "in organizing new lines of work and fitting them into the existing investigations on production, it is important that the problem is the natural unit of organizing such inquiries. ---- The relationships and ramifications of a project beyond the department originating it often will need to be taken into account.

"Agricultural investigation is made up of problems. The several departments of a station are agencies for analyzing and solving such problems. The station is more than an aggregation of departments; it is an organization, and its complexity grows out of the fact that the problems it is designed to solve are complex and need the outlook and the technique of various divisions of science. More and more it is becoming evident that these agencies can with great advantage be led to center their investigations on subjects of common interest, the solution of which require joint or coordinated effort."

The central farm problem requiring coordinated effort, according to Prof. Lloyd, is that of an adequate income to support the standard of living necessary to hold the upper per cent of the rural people on the land. "We should be able to work out definite projects which will aid us in solving this most important problem."

---oOo---

SOLUTION OF FARM PROBLEMS LIES IN ORGANIZED SELF-HELP.

The solution of American farm problems is largely dependent upon the kind of rural institutions, agencies and organizations maintained among farmers, according to replies from several of the Purnell Conference leaders to the question, "What is the outlook for American farm people within the next ten years"? Among those giving replies were Dr. Eben Mumford, Michigan State College; Dr. H. C. Taylor, Northwestern University; Dr. C. C. Taylor, North Carolina University; Prof. E. L. Morgan, University of Missouri; Dr. J. H. Kolb, University of Wisconsin; Dr. Dwight Sanderson, Cornell University and Dr. Charles J. Galpin, of the United States Department of Agriculture. As summarized and reported in the Christian Science Monitor, April 20, 1927, replies from these authorities in the field of rural life are regarded as of interest to our readers. They are presented as reported in the issue of the "Monitor" referred to above.

"Farm people through the growing strength of their organizations and programs are better prepared to cope with their problems than ever before in the history of agriculture", said Dr. Mumford. "Even the agricultural surplus will prove to be a blessing in disguise, for it is teaching farmers as well as others concerned that not all the achievements of modern science as applied to farming can be turned to production and marketing of food, but that science must also find a way to maintain a balanced relation between production and demand.

Moreover science must work out the principles of consumption and of a judicious expenditure of income. This means that the farmer must exercise, through effective group action, his right and duty to maintain a standard of living for himself and his family equal in its satisfactions and opportunities with that of major occupational groups in urban life".

"There is nothing written in the stars which will guarantee either agricultural efficiency or social content", says Dr. C. C. Taylor. "These can be had only by taking thought, and this thought must be the same hard headed thought that is habitually applied to agricultural production. If the agricultural people of the United States develop rapidly with the economic and social information and organizations that will enable them to grapple with the giant world forces into which commercial agriculture has thrown them, the future may be bright. If they do not, it will surely be dark."

"The social and economic situation indicates that farm people are in the midst of the greatest crisis in their history, which holds the possibility of a strong, virile, sound system of living on one hand and peasantry on the other. The crisis will pass as soon as we are ready to make the necessary adjustments in agriculture and country life which permanent progressive development demands", said Prof. Morgan. "There is no panacea for this, but it must be worked out through organized self-help."

Dr. Galpin, who recently returned from a study of farm conditions in Europe, likewise declared that the next 10 years would be critical, with the American standard of living at stake. "Being Americans", he said, "it is well-nigh inconceivable that our farm people will surrender in this crisis to unfavorable circumstances."

"The kind of agricultural civilization of the future will depend largely upon the kind of organizations, agencies and institutions which are maintained in rural life," said Dr. Kolb, of Wisconsin. "The outlook is good for those released farm families who are farming efficiently and are willing to invest time and money in raising standards of living through building up modern social and economic institutions".

"If the farmers' low purchasing power continues several years as seems probable, it will force more people to leave the farm for town and city", said Dr. Sanderson of New York. "But those who remain will have an increased interest in making farm life more attractive and enjoyable. Social and recreational life will be given greater consideration, particularly for the farm youth. This tendency is already in evidence and should ultimately result in a finer rural civilization."

Dr. H. C. Taylor, formerly chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture, saw the necessity for "the winning of an adequate share of the national income to maintain and improve the farmers' standard of living through efficient farming and wise statesmanship".

---c00---

DR. WILSON TO STUDY RURAL CHURCH SITUATION IN EUROPE.

Dr. Warren H. Wilson, Director of the Town and Country Department of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, will tour parts of Europe this summer for the purpose of studying "the state of equilibrium" attained in some of the older countries in the relation of the church to the community. Landing at Londonderry in the north of Ireland, Dr. Wilson plans to interview pastors in the small communities as far south as Dublin and then on into Scotland with a view of ascertaining the conditions of rural life as they affect the country churches.

Included in the questions on which Dr. Wilson hopes to be able to obtain specific information are, "what is the relation of the country church in its location to the village or to the open country"; what is the social program of the country church; and "does the open country church survive". Inquiries will be made concerning the methods of financing the small churches and the methods for equalizing the salaries of ministers outside the established church.

If time is available, Dr. Wilson will make a short journey through Germany to Denmark for the purpose of visualizing the folk high school scenes and getting a first hand impression of rural Denmark.

---c00---

PURSUES GRADUATE WORK.

Professor C. E. Lively, of the Department of Rural Economics, University of Ohio, on leave of absence, is pursuing his work for a doctorate at the University of Minnesota. "I am planning to fish a bit, study some, and read languages a lot", said Prof. Lively when starting to Minnesota at the end of the winter quarter at Ohio State.

---oOo---

RURAL MINISTERS GET "FARMER'S STANDARD OF LIVING" IN THEIR PROGRAM.

Dr. E. L. Kirkpatrick, of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life has been engaged to give a series of lectures on the farmer's standard of living before the summer schools for rural ministers at Madison, Wisconsin, and at Estes Park, Colorado. Each of these schools covers a period of two weeks, during July. Returning from Estes Park, Dr. Kirkpatrick plans to attend the Annual Conference of the American Country Life Association at East Lansing, Michigan.

---oOo---

METHODOLOGY OF RURAL RESEARCH. A GENERAL OUTLINE OF STEPS.

The following outline of logical steps in any piece of rural research was presented at the Purdue Institute by Dr. Galpin, who, in offering the outline, said he recognized his debt to Karl Pearson, John Dewey, and Prof. Schluter:

1. Facts, ideas, or demands which incline one to choose a particular segment of rural life within which to locate a problem of research.
2. Some method of study, or at least reconnaissance, of this segment of rural life for the purpose of aiding in locating a fertile problem of research.
3. Use of existing studies, reports, or allied data for a firm grasp of this segment of rural life, for the purpose of aiding in locating the fertile problem of research.
4. The effort to work out a formal statement of the problem of research from the first vague apprehension of the problem.
5. The procedure of making an analysis of the various elements, or component parts of the problem, as finally stated, - a step preparing the way for a practical plan of search for data.
6. The process of sorting these parts, or elements of the problem, as stated, into classes calling for quantitative data on the one hand, or qualitative data on the other.

7. The process of deciding what kinds of data will fit the classes of elements of the problem.
8. The process of finding out whether the desired data can be located anywhere within reach.
9. The process of deciding that the problem chosen is not a futile, or impossible one, - even though its solution is still a question.
10. The routine steps in collecting the data.
11. The procedure of classifying, tabulating, or otherwise synthesizing the data.
12. Comparative study of the synthetic facts and results, for the purpose of erecting hypotheses, or of arriving at generalizations.
13. Method of handling the facts, inferences, conclusions for presentation in print.
14. Attention given to significant by-products, unexpectedly cropping out in the research study.
15. Developing a technique for overcoming special difficulties encountered anywhere in the research.
16. Discovery of a repeating unit of investigation which may be taken for succeeding studies is highly desirable.

Dr. Galpin contends that there are two or three very critical points in a piece of research. One such point centers about "a fertile problem". And one of the common weaknesses of procedure is failing "to work out beforehand a formal statement of the problem", - a statement containing as "elements" concepts which are precise in their meaning. Another critical point is "sorting" the "elements of the problem" and "deciding what kinds of data," whether "quantitative" or "qualitative", fit the concepts of the problem. In fact, Dr. Galpin is rather keen on the value of laying out a "dummy" of the whole piece of research, from the point of "a formal statement of the problem" to the "comparative study of the synthetic facts", at the close, before doing any field work other than bare reconnaissance. This "dummy" will even include statistical tables, and thereby be likely to save much useless fact-gathering which can never serve any scientific purpose.

as Mr. Leary moderated FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM
POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 1, 1927

Vol. 1, No. 3

AMERICAN COUNTRY LIFE ASSOCIATION STAGES SUCCESSFUL TENTH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM.

Efforts and energies of workers in the field of rural life during the past few years culminated in a successful and far-reaching tenth anniversary program of the American Country Life Association held at East Lansing, Michigan, in cooperation with the American Farm Economics Association, August 1 - 4. More than 600 registrants, representing 32 states and 21 foreign countries attended and participated in the conference. Probably 50 per cent of the registrants were farmers and farm women, including Master farmers and Master farm homemakers from Michigan and nearby states; Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Plans for the conference were based upon "Farm Income and Farm Life", a symposium on the relation of social and economic factors in rural progress, prepared during the past 3 years by more than 40 collaborators, under the direction of a joint committee representing the American Country Life Association and the American Farm Economics Association. Personnel of the committee included Dwight Sanderson, Cornell University, chairman; J. H. Kolb, University of Wisconsin; M. L. Wilson, Montana Agricultural College; Andrew Boss, University of Minnesota; F. D. Farrell, Kansas State Agricultural College, and O. G. Lloyd, Purdue University. This symposium, published in book form by means of a grant from the Institute of Social and Religious Research, by the University of Chicago press, was referred to constantly throughout the discussion meetings of the conference. Both the book and the conference represent an earnest and a coordinated effort to "interlock the social and the economic aspects of farming and farm life".

In "set up" the conference proceeded from formal papers and addresses, portraying the available facts, to large group and small group discussions. Included among the speakers presenting formal papers or giving addresses were the Honorable Secretary of Agriculture, Wm. M. Jardine, Kenyon L. Butterfield, C. J. Galpin, J. I. Falconer, C. B. Smith, E. C. Lindeman, H. C. Taylor, L. H. Bailey, L. J. Tabor and L. B. Palmer.

Carl C. Taylor led the larger conference group through three spirited, and at times somewhat stormy, sessions of discussion. John D. Willard, E. C. Lindeman, R. G. Foster, B. Y. Landis, Mrs. Charles Schuttler and J. Clyde Marquis each led one of the smaller, though none the less keen and active, groups in discussions of education, health, recreation, religion, family and legislation, respectively, as related to income and living.

The climax of the conference was reached in the able presentation by A. R. Mann, dean of agriculture, Cornell University, of the conference findings in terms of the "Final Conference Expression". A careful reading of Dean Mann's summary appearing below will give a clear conception of the major accomplishments of the group assembled.

FINAL CONFERENCE EXPRESSION

The points of chief emphasis throughout the discussions.

A. R. Mann

"The purpose of this final expression is to gather up the ideas or concepts which have stood out as of chief importance from the standpoint of those who participated. It is no part of the speaker's task to modify these ideas by the injection of his own personal interpretation of them.

This summary is admittedly a most difficult task; there has not always been agreement as to the essential value of viewpoints stated; a vast amount of thought, not possible under the stress of the convention, would be required to harmonize or even to set in orderly form the vast array of significant utterances which have been heard. Most difficult of all is the fact that this summary has had to be prepared in the last hours of the night when the talking is done. You will be sympathetic toward its inadequacy.

What, then, are some of the significant achievements and viewpoints resulting from this convention?

1. First, this conference has recognized the international implications of its program and of the great issues of farm income and farm life. Its sessions have been dignified by the presence of many distinguished foreign visitors. While improvements in country life actually get done only as they are accomplished in the rural villages and communities, their character and significance are bound up with all the larger groups of population; and there are aspects of fundamental character which are international in importance and influence. The rural populations of the world have much in common; so do the nations of the world in dealing with their farm problems. This wider international contact, here signalized by the presence of such eminent and qualified representatives of other lands, must be strengthened and made more active as the years pass, if the fullest progress is to be achieved.

2. For the first time in the history of this association, farmers and farm women themselves have taken an active and influential part in its discussions. Qualified farmers have spoken, and they have made invaluable contributions. From the standpoint of the real usefulness of this association, and to keep it in living sympathy with the real problems of farmers, no aspect is greater than this. But it is only a beginning.

We shall need more of it in future conventions to save us from becoming chiefly academic.

The discussions here have revealed that farmers and so-called professional workers approach the problems in hand from different standpoints and in different attitudes of mind. A superficial impression may be gained that these two attitudes are irreconcilable. They are not. We must first learn to speak the same language, then we shall have the means of reaching common ground and uniting our efforts. Farmers have much to give to professional workers; they also have much to learn from such workers. Dr. H. C. Taylor is right in his statement that out of the midst of farmers themselves must come many of the plans and much of the leadership for the solution of rural problems; therefore this convention will have made a real contribution if it has successfully initiated a fuller cooperation between farmers and professional workers dealing with rural economic and social problems.

3. This conference has made a useful contribution in interlocking the two aspects of its theme, the economic and the social, farm income and farm life. Hitherto these have all too commonly been treated as separate things. In the conference book, in the addresses and the discussions, these two have merged into a common concept, the standard of life in the country and the means for its realization. I predict that there has been advanced here a singleness of objective, a wholeness in the conception of life, which will come in time to have marked influence on both economics and sociology as fields of inquiry, and in personal and community programs of action.

4. The discussions have resolved themselves into three major categories: (a) Factors influencing farm income; (b) factors influencing the farmer's standard of life; (c) the inter-relations of farm income and farm life.

The starting point has been a recognition of both long-time trends and the severe agricultural depression of recent years and the distress which it has produced; of the growing numerical disproportion between rural and urban populations; the disparity between farm prices and industrial prices; between the 70% non-farming population enjoying 92% of the national income and the 30% farm population not enjoying the less than 8% which it receives; of the inequities of taxation and tariff policies and their blighting effects upon agriculture, and of the whole train of hardships which these conditions have imposed upon farmers, upon rural society, and finally on the nation as a whole. The Master Farmers who have spoken, and Secretary Jardine, Professors Falconer, Lloyd, and others have shot these inescapable facts into the center of the picture. We must frankly admit that the conference has not adequately answered the farmers' question, "How are these conditions to be overcome in order that the fuller life we seek may be realized"? At the same time it must be declared that this convention did not set itself to answer this question, but rather to throw light on the interrelations existing between farm income and quality of life.

5. Dr. Black and others pointed out that the problem of agricultural income resolves itself into a question of numbers of workers per unit of land and of farm capital, how efficient farmers are, how hard they work, the amount and quality of production, elements they have to work with, the consuming power and disposition of world population relative to farm products, and the world price situation.

6. Emphasis has been placed on two inequalities which have their bases in legislation: the system of taxation which imposes a grossly disproportionate burden on real estate, and thus on farms, and on the tariff system. A revision of these systems, which would eliminate or at least reduce the maladjustments now existing, would not increase incomes but would release incomes for other needed purposes and they are factors in the situation. The load must be equalized. We have had much class legislation which has passed under the phraseology of the "general good". Tariff and taxation programs have tended to become class legislation. Inequity results when the successful economic group in the population dominates, as is usually the case.

7. Greater efficiency in production is not what we so much need now, but a more equitable distribution of wealth. Increased efficiency may conceivably accentuate the troubles rather than remedy them. Increased efficiency intensifies competition and lowers the level of profits. Furthermore, in agriculture the benefits of increased efficiency are diffused to consumers, not retained by farmers. Equity in distribution transcends in importance the total income received. On it hangs the sense of justice, the basis of contentment, and harmony among participating groups.

8. The greatest force in economic life today is the limiting of competition. Large businesses unite or cooperate to limit competition among them. Buyers of agricultural products resort to trade agreements to restrict competition among them, which tends to force farmers' prices up. By the same token farmers must adopt measures to limit competition among themselves. They represent the greatest body of competitors, to their own constant loss. Trade agreements and cooperative action must be developed among farmers. So long as the present unlimited competitive system continues, farmers will not receive their equitable share of the national income.

9. There has been formulated, or at least given striking emphasis, what to the country as a whole is essentially a new, and for once adequate, definition of success in farming. Farming is a mode of life as well as an occupation. It is a composite whole. It is at one and the same time economic, social, physiological, psychological, or, if you prefer, both human and material, in the satisfactions it demands. Farm income and rate of return on invested capital, always important and by some considered the primary, if not the sole criteria of success, have been stated in their functional relationships with other components of success.

Dr. Kirpatrick admirably drew the distinction between a narrow and partial and a comprehensive and convincing definition of success in farming. It is synonymous with satisfaction of human wants and desires. It includes income or wealth, but it is more than income. It is the embodiment of the satisfactions which the farm family finds in its calling, in its interrelations, and in its surroundings. Sources of these satisfactions are the tangible goods furnished by the farm for living purposes, the financial return which enables the farm family to draw upon the community's supply of consumption goods not available from family effort, and also certain intangible, and as yet not readily measurable factors, but none the less real. Among these intangible factors is a sense of security which tends to develop a state of mind in harmony with an environment where individuals normally live at their best. Success in farming is defined as the index of satisfactions or values accruing to the family from the occupation of farming and from living in the farming community. Success is a measure of personal satisfactions, but it is more - it is also a measure of the social implications of those satisfactions.

10. Again, voice has here been given to a finer content of the concept "standard of life", standard of living, or cultural level, as you may prefer to call it. It is the sum total of values evolving from the acquisition and from the use of goods and the use of time in the satisfaction of human wants. This enriched concept affords a new focal point for our thinking and for the direction of our energies. It is a sort of mobilization center for all the working forces, economic, sociological and psychological. It helps to set the parts in their proper relation to the whole. It bids fair to clarify the goal of all rural endeavor, which will find its richest expression in a high standard of living for increasing proportions of the population.

It is a contribution to progress when we clarify our thinking by interpreting success in farming in terms of the standard of life sought and the quality of life attained by the farm family, rather than merely by financial returns.

11. Dr. H. C. Taylor has aptly pointed out that any class of producers gets only what it consumes, and the farmers must learn this lesson. Whether better income will be built into a better standard of life depends upon the way the income is used. He urges that one of the ways to improve the standard of life in the open country is for farmers as a class to demand a better living and to refuse to farm without it. This means that some will leave the farms; it also means that increased income, instead of being generally used to acquire more land to produce more crops or live-stock to make increased competition which will lower prices and thus lower the level of living, will be invested in part at least in those facilities and perquisites of a higher level which will yield satisfactions which make life pleasurable and efficient. This is a doctrine which has been little urged hitherto. Farmers will actually get only what they consume in economic, social, intellectual, and spiritual satisfactions.

The Secretary of Agriculture expressed a similar idea when he urged that more attention must be paid to having farmers achieve a higher efficiency in consumption, to seek the highest standard of life possible on their incomes. He would provide education in consumption values as well as in production and marketing values. How to consume the income becomes a major issue. It is not enough simply to consume more; one of the largest problems is how to use income so as to get the greatest value from such income as one has; how to get values such as other groups enjoy. There must be developed an adequate technique on how to utilize income. One must first get an income; he must then learn how to utilize it in terms of satisfactions; he must then consume it if he is to keep it. This is one of the clear pronouncements of the convention.

It must be admitted that this is a reversal of the traditional emphasis. It has been customary to urge the necessity for a larger income in order that the social and personal satisfactions may be acquired. There need be no fundamental conflict between the two modes of expression, but there is distinct value in now reversing the picture and setting out boldly that farmers really get only what they utilize, that their habits as consumers of economic and social goods need attention, and that they should demand higher standards of life as a groundwork for acquiring larger incomes. There are many inherent difficulties in acquiring the family and the community utilities which will make the satisfactions possible of realization, but the existence of an insistent demand will be a powerful aid.

This idea ties in very closely with one of the points brought out repeatedly in nearly all the groups which discussed the conference topic and whose reports you have just received. Whether one is discussing the relationship of education to income, or of health facilities, recreation, churches, household conveniences, or other utilities to income, nearly every group has voiced that the existence or the creation of the ideals, the desires for better utilities, is a prerequisite to their realization. What one wants sufficiently he is likely finally to obtain. While better education, for example, is in general correlated with better income, there is here a constant interplay of cause and effect. There is much evidence that the securing of an education is accomplished because of the individual's desire for it rather than because of economic status or nearness to schools. Such desire will frequently span the handicaps of distance or of poor economic status.

12. The consciousness of community has been given a new emphasis. This applies in two quite diverse senses: in the community of interest of the workers in economics and in sociology and in a larger sense in the functioning of rural communes as such. In many of the matters here discussed, the rural community is the unit through which, by concerted action, the ideals are to be realized. Communities which are real communes in consciousness, and are therefore cooperative in action, are most successfully realizing both economic competence and social satisfactions. In

functional cooperation lies the roadway of achievement both of ideals and of the means for providing the utilities by which these ideals may be realized. There must be group action and the pooling of interests, means, and powers in order to provide these larger satisfactions which are the very essence of an advancing civilization.

13. Our national house is now divided into conflicting groups, rural and urban. Neither can finally be abstracted from the other. They are mutually contributory. The complementary relation of the two groups, always actual in fact, needs to be freed from mists of misunderstanding, indifference, even antagonism and perhaps exploitation, and seen afresh in the values which will result from a closer integration and a finer cooperation. It must be recognized that country life in America, whether approached from economic or cultural points of view, tends to be increasingly dominated by forces which originate in industrialized centers. The main features of city and rural culture finally merge. Recreation, religion, education, proceed toward a generalized pattern, and the city normally sets the pace whether we will it or not. City and country must devise means of living in mutually helpful relationships.

14. It sometimes takes a penetrating mind to discover the subtle forces which control destinies, especially when the clouds are thick and the spirits low. Dr. Butterfield and Dr. Galpin have revealed certain of the great issues and the permeating forces which are at work to bring on the new day.

(a) Dr. Butterfield pointed out that America has mastered a high material civilization, in which urban populations have shared most largely. A physical situation beyond the dreams of past generations is here. A new moral problem issues: How can men reach their fullest possibilities under conditions of ease and great prosperity?

In the midst of this vast development, farmers are not sharing proportionately; nor are they sharing adequately from a comparative standpoint. The city is dominant in the national life and industry is in the saddle. Agriculture, engaging some of the best human stock in the land, is relatively depressed. Out of this situation arises three great issues of importance to the progress of civilization:

(1) The economic factor. How can a body of farmers be retained on American farms who are economically efficient and free, who can compete successfully with industry and commerce for capital, labor, and income, and for the standard of living? Can the farmer win the equality in competition with these forces in view of the nature and hazards of his business?

(2) The social factor. Can the quality of the people on the land be kept on a par with those of the urban centers, who can command enormous resources for education and for other social utilities? These advantages of the cities draw good blood from the country. How long can the country stand the pace and still retain an equality of human stock?

(3) The moral factor. How can character-building for the individual and society be carried forward in a world dominated by vast and powerful industrial urban developments? Is material civilization running away with us?

In solution of these problems certain conditions must enter:

(1) All the people must be brought to recognize the presence and the significance of the rural problem from the standpoint of the entire nation.

(2) The whole people must recognize that the conditions under which the farmers work are such that agriculture must be made a most favored industry. It has been too long dominated and exploited. The interests of civilization itself demand this.

(3) Urban wealth, which is drawn in considerable part from farm industry, must help support rural institutions and social utilities. The total wealth of the nation must be used to promote the total well-being of the nation, including the rural.

(4) Farmers must be organized and encouraged to organize. In the middle of the past century capitalistic industry organized, and great combines and corporations came into being. They dominated the national life, national legislation, and national policy. They sometimes exploited labor and prospered on the cheap raw materials, especially food supplies, from the farms. They are a gain to the nation, but there were and still are inequalities involved.

To save itself, labor organized, beginning effectively about 1885. It grew in strength, gained favorable legislation, influenced and in some cases controlled national policies, and it has come to a favored position. It is sharing in the rewards of industry. It has even at times become dominant.

Now in these days, out of the midst of adversity, great hardship, and relative inequality, we are witnessing the emergence of organized agriculture, the third great force in national life. It is inevitable. It must be done. Organized agriculture must assert its right to receive favorable legislation, to help shape national policies, to share the favored position now held by organized capital and organized labor.

(b) Dr. Galpin has also penetrated the turbulent mass and at the core he finds calmly, steadily, persistently at work a force for progress and for readjustment on a higher plane which he believes confidently is making for a new day. He calls this force science; and he finds it incorporated in unmeasured but portentous degree in the minds and actions of farm men and women. The science of agriculture, the principles of home-making, the consciousness of community are working fundamental changes in American agriculture and country life which, while yet in the bud, will in their full fruitage bring farming and country living on to a technical, economic, and social plane comparable with that of urban populations. The very progress of this science is a contributing factor to the conditions creating this great change in the numerical relations of rural and urban groups; it is evolutionary in character; and it will help point the way out. The scientific principles governing the occupation of farming have come to be the possession of the rank and file of farmers, and farmers

are the first to demand their further expansion and elucidation. As Secretary Jardine said, "The average farmer today knows more of the science on which his industry rests, and brings it into constant application, than the scientist knew fifty years ago."

Farmers themselves know that good things in agriculture follow in a sequence certain ascertainable facts. While the scientific habit of mind, both in farmers and in workers in agricultural science, still largely concerns itself with the technical operations of farms and homes, the significant fact to keep clearly before us is that it is germinal; planted in one department or organ, it steadily spreads to infect the whole being. With its natural growth it will become operative in all departments of living, economic and social, material and human. Science cannot be restricted to a single compartment. It will sooner or later be in full operation among all the human relationships of rural society. If this be so, then one of our great resources, is more fully to utilize the means at our disposal, and to improve those means, for ascertaining the facts which, in sequence, will enable us to go about producing the antecedents of good conditions and eliminating the antecedents of bad conditions. Tangible results of this process are now here, and are inherent in farm practices, household methods, community institutions and activities. What is now in its initial stages will in its ultimate reaches be of controlling importance alike in rural occupations and rural human relationships. The science of agriculture will become the science of rural society inclusively. As we believe that controllable facts make rural society what it is, so we believe that ascertainable facts will go far toward making farming and rural society what they must inevitably become if farmers are to share equitably in the satisfactions of life and the privileges and opportunities of a democratic social order.

15. The foregoing contributions to thought are gleaned from the formal papers and general discussions. Much of the most careful thinking was done in the several groups which took the conference theme apart and diagnosed it in certain of its particular aspects. From reports of the separate groups the following considerations perhaps stand out most clearly:

(a) The group which discussed the relation of the family to farm income urged that the income should be such as to allow some freedom of choice among members of the family as to occupation, so as to accomplish the fullest development of the individual. The consensus of opinion was that many of the satisfactions of life can be obtained in some measure from present incomes but that most of them cannot be enjoyed to the fullest extent, and some cannot be realized at all, until incomes are increased. Much may be supplied, however, by utilizing the services of existing social agencies. As means to increase farm income stress was laid on better education and the insistent demand by farmers for the satisfactions which will enrich the quality of life.

(b) The group considering the relations between income, recreation, and farm life concluded that the capacity to enjoy recreation is a product of natural endowments and experience, and that it is not correlated with financial income; while in its active expression economic circumstances may exert an influence, meagerness of income does not necessarily limit the possibility of an adequate recreational program for farm people. This group made some useful suggestions as to how the desirable recreation may be facilitated in the home and in the community, the details of which are in your hands. It significantly calls attention to the fact that the recreational program should provide for participation of farm folk in the recreation of the neighboring town folk, as well as independently and natively.

(c) The group engaged with the relation between religion and farm income seemed to find a correlation between religious education and a successful farming community; also between income and facilities for religious development and mode of expression. A religious attitude is a steadying force in times of financial crisis. Religious organizations are concerned with the whole of life and with the spiritualizing of all community activity. It was found that the church had responsibility to teach the economic implications of religion, and the promotion of a search for new and more nearly satisfying values in life.

(d) That section dealing with the interrelations of income and health found that income and life are causally related only through the personality of the individual. Spiritual values are achieved by living adequately in all the other worlds of value, beginning with the physical and material. If the cost of maintaining an adequate health standard is greater than the farmer can pay out of current income, the standard should nevertheless be set up and maintained as a constant goal until it is realized. The creation of the ideal will hasten its realization. Health education is a prerequisite, and there must finally be some form of community organization if health standards are to be maintained.

(e) While the next group found a definite correlation between education and farm income, it was not clear that education is always the cause and income the effect; personal ambition and native abilities enter. But education sets new standards, creates new desires, develops abilities, and may thus stimulate and direct efforts which will yield increased income. Desire for education is more potent and certain than financial status of the individual, although financial limitations inject difficulties. Individual standards and desires are largely influenced by community standards and desires. This means that the community must be energized and organized for the realization of a higher quality of life through self-development. A cooperative community can achieve higher levels; a non-cooperating community is not likely to do so. Growth in community ideals and standards of life must be fostered. This at once leads to the necessity for qualified, indigenous leadership.

(f) Finally the group which met to consider the important topic of the relation of legislation to income voiced the conclusion that the agricultural situation demands the attention of national legislative bodies in order that permanent readjustment may be afforded. The objective should be to remove the disparity between farm income and the incomes from other industries, and between farm prices and industrial prices.

16. The sociologist tells us that the human satisfactions which all persons seek are related to certain categories of their interests, namely, wealth, health, knowledge, beauty (or art), sociability, and righteousness. Progress for society is measured by an increased aggregate or juster proportion of these desirables or satisfactions for ever increasing numbers of the people. If we accept this general definition, may we not then harmonize our conceptions of farm income and farm life and of social justice into a single objective, and agree that agricultural progress is to be found in the process of achieving, on the part of people living on farms, in ever greater amount and juster proportion the higher levels of wealth, health, knowledge, beauty, sociability, and righteousness which we as a people have set as worthy of our loftiest desires and highest efforts. It is only by collective action that such progress will be realized.

17. 'Better farming, better business, and better living; and the greatest of these is better living'. If there is one pronouncement which has towered above others throughout these days of discussion, it is aptly expressed in these words. "

Much of the credit for the success of this and the dozen or more other conferences held at East Lansing, in commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the founding of Michigan State College goes to President Butterfield and his corps of rural life workers, Eben Mumford, J. T. Thaden, C. R. Hoffer, P. H. Pearson, John D. Willard, John Phelan and others. Successfully "staged" during the anniversary or Country -Life Week, July 31 to August 6, by this corps of workers were the International Country Life Conference, The National School of Leadership for Rural Life Students, The World Agriculture Society, The National Conference of Master Farmers, The National Catholic Rural Life Conference, The Regional Conference of Community Church Workers and other conferences and meetings of state wide interest. Centered in the "Union Building" on the campus, the different conference bodies accepted the hospitality of the Michigan State College with gratitude and appreciation.

-----O-----

INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY LIFE CONFERENCE

Twenty five foreign countries and 23 states of the United States were represented at the second International Country Life Conference held at East Lansing, Michigan, August 4 - 6, 1927. Primarily, the program consisted of greetings and of brief reports on recent progress in country life in the foreign countries which were represented. Among the more formal addresses were, "The Fundamental Problems in Country Life", Dr. L. H. Bailey, U.S.A.,

"The International Habit of Cooperation" President Kenyon L. Butterfield, U.S.A., "The Danish Farmer in Politics", principal Jacob Lange, Denmark; "The Relation of Women's Institutes in England to Country Life Progress", Mrs. Alfred Watt, England; "Some New International Movements in Rural Affairs", Director of Agriculture, Paul DeVuyst, Belgium; "The Development of Rural Community Life in Germany", Herr Friedrich Lembke, Germany; "Country Life in Hungary", Dr. Stephen Weis, Hungary; "The Relation of Town and Country in Czechoslovakia", Prof. Vaclav Smetanka, Czechoslovakia; and "Review of Recent Rural Community Work in Great Britain", Mr. J. Nugent Harris, England.

All sessions of the conference were greatly spirited and vitalized through general discussion. Addresses and reports were made in English. Complete notes were taken and the conference proceedings will be printed in English for distribution to all persons having registered as attending.

Rural life workers from the United States were given the opportunity to meet personally some of the delegates from foreign countries, through a series of round-tables arranged for and carried out during the American Country Life Association Conference August 1 - 4. At one of these meetings Director Paul DeVuyst presented slides and films showing country life in Belgium. At another, Mr. J. Nugent Harris spoke on "The English Agricultural Question in its Political Aspects." At another, Prof. Vaclav Smetanka discussed "Recent Rural Educational Progress in Czechoslovakia". At a fourth meeting, Mrs. Alfred Watt told "How England has Dealt With the Social Needs of the Village", at a fifth, Principal Jacob Lange described "The People's High Schools of Denmark"; and at a sixth, Dr. Stephen Weis discussed "The Movement for Improvement of the Hungarian Farm Village".

"The founding of the International Country Life Commission, 1925, was due primarily to the efforts of Director Paul DeVuyst of Belgium. The first regular conference of the Commission was held in Brussels, Belgium, July 20, 21, 22, 1926. At that time, thirteen countries were represented, by some thirty or forty delegates including twelve from the United States. At the meeting it was agreed that the English translation of the official name of the association should be 'The International Country Life Commission'. The object of the Commission is, in general, to develop cooperation on an international basis on the part of individuals, associations and governments, in all aspects of the improvement of living conditions of country people the world over."

The aim of the Commission and the contribution of the East Lansing conference toward the realization of that aim is clearly stated by C. J. Galpin, United States Department of Agriculture, as follows:

"The most general statement of the aim of the International Country Life Commission, under whose auspices a conference is held in different nations every two or three years, is this: To raise to a high level the standard of living of farm families in all lands. If anyone is mystified

by the unofficial participation of the United States in a commission characterized by such an aim, he will quickly comprehend the reason and solve the mystery, when he remembers that it is to the interest of the farmers in a country where the rural standards are high to have his competitors in other countries enjoy a standard of living equally high.

The conference at Michigan State College was viewed with favor by the embassies and legations of all nations, and their efforts were responsible for a good part of the representation from abroad. This Commission is one more link in world peace.

The "new farmer", a phrase with which we are familiar in the United States, was a part of the report of every country of Europe represented. The determination of the peasant of Europe to slough off his peasantry - as Americans understand peasantry - to rise by intelligent application of science and skill to his occupation, and to work out his economic and political problems with his own brains, was the bright spot of the conference.

The ease with which visitors from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Hungary, Germany, Belgium, England, Switzerland, made themselves at home in Michigan's most hospitable but highly informal atmosphere was a delight to all Americans. Personal friendships were quickly made and cemented in committees and in round-table discussions, even with persons whose language barrier was quite real. Good fellowship, tolerance, a widening of the variations of country life experience, a quickening of hope, a new birth of faith in the cause of rural life, - all these and more that eludes statement prevailed, giving to the occasion the relish of charm.

President Kenyon L. Butterfield, played the role of host with cordiality, balance, and modesty. His utterance on all occasions was pointed, sane, generous, comprehensive. Michigan's master farmers backed up the President of the college in opening wide the door of hospitality to all foreign guests.

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN COUNTRY LIFE:

Spirit of fellowship, earnestness of purpose and determination to serve in the rural field were ear-marks of the National School of Leadership for Rural Life Students, held at East Lansing, Michigan, July 27 to August 3, in conjunction with the tenth annual Conference of the American Country Life Association. The forty or more students gathered approached the theme of the general conference "Farm Income and Farm Life" from the standpoints "What are the Fundamental Values or Satisfactions of Farm Life?", "What is Involved in an Adequate Standard of Life?", "How do Standards of Life Influence Incomes and How Does Economic Status Influence the Standard of Life?", "What is Involved in Rural Progress?" and "How can Rural Agencies and Leaders Best Promote Rural Progress?" "The Relation of Students to the Rural Church" and "College Problems" came in for a share of the discussion.

Among the discussion group leaders were Paul T. Sanders, University of Chicago, Edna Baumberger and Russell H. Hoy, Ohio Wesleyan University, French M. Hyre, University of West Virginia, Jaunita Reive, Detroit Teacher's College, Vivid Vainbridge, Heath Holden, William H. Tufts and Vera Stockman, Michigan State College; Thomas N. Roberts, Hampton Institute, James D. Wyker, Columbia University, Laura Sperry, Connecticut Agricultural College; Jacob Turnbull, Michigan State Normal College; Forrest Roe, Western State Teacher's College; Margaret Munn, University of Delaware and Lois Robinson, University of Vermont. Under the general leadership of B. Y. Landis, Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, the several discussion groups wrestling with the different phases of the general theme, prepared the following summary of student findings: These were submitted to the American Country Life Association, at its final conference session by James D. Wyker.

Some Findings of the Special Student Conference
of the A.C.L.A. - on Farm Income and Farm Life.

"1. A Search for New Values.

One of our great needs is a revaluation of life in terms of the 'spiritual'. There is great need for a high standard of life, particularly for recognition of the 'intangibles' in the standard. This standard must be based upon satisfaction in farming.

We should work for an economic adjustment of agriculture to urban industry and to the world business situation. The farmer must fight for his fair share of the national income.

It is more important, however, to change behavior than to work directly for higher income. The way to better economic status is through changing the values of life; but the history of economic groups seems to indicate that they soon reach a point of 'diminishing economic returns', and that they must eventually find their greatest sources of satisfaction in non-economic activities.

There was also considerable interest in having experiments in living and in conducting educational institutions by non-economic incentives e.g. the starting of groups like the Danish folk schools, where people will engage in following the learning process for its own sake.

2. The 'Interlocking' Idea.

Our discussions seemed to reveal that there is an 'interlocking' of all human interests. A student of Denmark informed us that in that great 'Kingdom of Culture', education, religion, and economic activity they are all interlocked. There is cooperative living in all these realms. Man re-

sponds to a situation as a total personality. Personality does not have economic compartments or educational compartments.

The mistakes of our cooperative marketing movement are a case in point. In Denmark there was cooperative living in non-economic activities for twenty years before the necessity for economic cooperation came. But when the necessity did come, cooperation was already a way of life, and the success of economic cooperation was assured. Here is a most important lesson from little Denmark!

With our interests interlocked, this means for rural leaders that their working upon separate programs must cease. We must no longer have ministers 'churching it', case workers 'case-working it', or the poultry specialist 'poultrying it'. We see the need for new ways of living and working together. Yet we have accomplished very little. Here are opportunities for experiments and new ventures.

Interlocking interests also mean that we must have more 'Inter-professional' education. We must come to a day when the case worker will know something about land problems, and the specialist in swine diseases will know something about social contacts and adjustments.

We must also give our attention to the City. When we discussed the sources of stimuli for new and better standards of life, many felt that the city was the source for the most important stimuli farm people now have. Study of the rural-urban conflict, and working toward rural-urban cooperation must be some of our important tasks.

The international significance of agrarian groups was brought vividly before us. A student from India challenged our conventional conceptions of religion. Denmark was a constant source of information. And we had with us representatives from the old world who are striving to maintain their agrarian populations. One of these representatives pointed out vividly to us that our tremendous resources of land, our experience in organization and our wealth, may play a great part of maintaining peace in the world, if we will really engage in cooperative living with other nations.

3. Institutionalism.

We feel a concern about the functioning of some of our social institutions in rural life. 'Our little systems have their day, and then they do not pass away.'

Two institutions were discussed - the college and the church. As for the college, we are concerned about the lack of fellowship among students and between students and faculty; we are also concerned about a lack of recognition of those interested in rural life on our campuses; some of us are concerned about the methods of teaching which we have observed. We believe that fellowship between faculty and students, and recognition of students preparing for rural leadership must be attained by sincere student

efforts. Those of us who are interested in new methods of teaching are interested in having more experiments in an approach through consideration of the problems of students. We recognize that if this were done, many college courses now being given would be found useless. Some of us are also interested in having courses in philosophy, ethics, and life planning early in the college course.

As for the church, we are concerned because it tends to 'campaign for itself' rather than to be a means to an end, and because churches do not, as a rule, cooperate in promoting rural welfare. Some of us are interested in trying the one-church approach, as the best method of carrying on the activities a church should develop. Some of us are anxious to carry on projects which will start with the experiences of people, and then draw on religious teaching as a source for the reconstructing and enriching of experience. Some of us are impressed with the way a new philosophy of religion is emerging in rural America, a shift from an emphasis upon the other world to an emphasis upon better life today - in other words a shift from religion which is predominantly one which is needed in crises to one which is predominantly a 'religion of culture'.

4. Methods.

We have seen the significant results of the method of getting communities to rate themselves on a score card with a statement of standard, as has been done in West Virginia. 'Let us go out asking questions: We are impressed with the need of spreading the word of inquiry and of working in such a way as to assist people to work out what rural welfare really is.'

We are impressed with the importance of experiments as a good way of evolving new methods and better attitudes toward one another.

5. Redirection.

What we propose means a redirection of much of our rural enterprise, both as to objectives and methods. In fact it means wrestling with some of the dominant tendencies of American civilization.

6. High Adventure.

We have secured a new idea of the bigness of the rural problem and a new vision of the importance of the agrarian populations in the world. We believe that rural leadership will be for us a satisfactory adventure, - a hard and dangerous task, but one of rich reward."

Immediately following the presentation of findings attention of the students turned toward a "set-up" for next year's conference on the theme of Rural-Urban Relations. At a luncheon meeting held August 4, plans for the location and organization for study of available materials

were discussed and B. Y. Landis was asked to prepare a syllabus for use by discussion groups in the colleges and universities. Both students and teachers of rural sociology are asked to forward any suggestions which they have concerning new material or methods to Vivid Vainbridge, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan, who will in turn transmit them to Mr. Landis.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MASTER FARMERS.

The first National Conference of Master Farmers convened at the Michigan Agricultural College, East Lansing, Michigan, August 1, 1927, in connection with the joint conference of the American Country Life Association and the American Farm Economics Association. Registration, introduction of Master Farmers, discussion of the general conference topic, "Farm Income and Farm Life" and a banquet program constituted the special numbers on August 1. Bert Wermuth, editor of the Michigan Farmer, acted as (banquet) toastmaster and C. V. Gregory, editor of the Prairie Farmer, led a discussion of the formation of a National Master Farmer's Association.

Among the Master Farmers who participated in the general conference program, August 4, were A. B. Cook, Owosso, Mich., Mrs. Minard E. Farley, Albion, Mich., H. L. Webster, Tekamah, Nebr., D. W. Galehouse, Marshallville, Ohio; Mrs. Clarence B. Watson, Macomb, Ill., and Earl Watts, Shenandoah, Iowa. Master Farmers and other farmers, whose names are not available, made significant contributions to both the large and the small group discussions to the group discussion which dealt with legislation in relation to income, especially. For the maintenance of an efficient and a satisfying family life on the farm, the consensus of opinion seemed to center around the question of increased returns from farming. This is well expressed in the general conclusions of the group which discussed legislation in relation to income. These conclusions were summarized as follows:

"1. We believe that the agricultural situation should command the attention of national legislative bodies in order that permanent measures to promote an adequate agricultural development may be adopted.

2. We believe that legislative effort should be made to bring the farmer's income more nearly to a parity with the income of workers in other industries.

3. We believe, that while there is some danger that higher prices may stimulate production, and bring about further difficulties, this danger is not at present sufficient to check action toward price improvement,

4. We believe that some form of new legislation should be adopted".

MEETING OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL.

Rural sociologists were represented by C. J. Galpin, United States Department of Agriculture; Dwight Sanderson, Cornell University; and J. H. Kolb, University of Wisconsin, at a meeting of the Social Science Research Council held at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, August 22 - 26, 1927. Mr. Galpin is a member of the Council's Advisory Committee on Social and Economic Research in Agriculture, of which H. C. Taylor, Institute of Land Economics, Northwestern University is Chairman. Mr. Sanderson and Mr. Kolb were asked to sit in with the committee on all of its deliverations at the Hanover meeting.

Messrs Sanderson, Kolb and Carl C. Taylor, North Carolina State College, each spent several weeks during the past year in personal visits to different institutions doing sociological research for the purpose of obtaining information for a complete report of all rural social research in progress during the year ending June 30, 1927. The data obtained were classified and summarized and the report was submitted to the council as a part of the report of the Advisory Committee on Social and Economic Research in Agriculture.

MARKETING ATTITUDES OF MINNESOTA FARMERS.

"Marketing Attitudes of Minnesota Farmers", by Carle C. Zimmerman and John D. Black, Technical bulletin 45, University of Minnesota, is of interest to investigators and teachers in rural sociology and agricultural economics. "The purposes of the study", resulting in the bulletin, according to the authors, "were to discover the attitudes of the farmers of Minnesota toward marketing problems and particularly toward cooperation: to discover the genesis of these attitudes and to point out their significance in programs of organization and education in the field of marketing". An attitude is defined as an "opinion or point of view on a subject, expressed or defined in response to a direct question."

Data for the study were obtained by the survey method from 345 farmers in nine communities scattered throughout the state. The Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, United States Department of Agriculture, cooperated with the Division of Agricultural Economics, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station in conducting the study.

-----0-----

RURAL ORGANIZATIONS IN RELATION TO RURAL LIFE IN VIRGINIA.

"Rural Organizations in Relation to Rural Life in Virginia", by William E. Garnett, bulletin 256, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, gives "special reference to organizational attitudes". In this report an "attitude" refers to the "set of mind", "reaction tendency" or "behavior pattern" toward given questions or situations.

The study resulting in this report is characterized as a pioneer without guiding precedents. Data were obtained through personal visitation in 75 communities of 40 counties and by mailed questionnaires. A case study of the rise and decline of the Tobacco Grower's Association comprises approximately 40 pages of the report. The Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperated with the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station in making the study.

-----O-----

WHAT FARMERS THINK OF FARMING.

"What Farmers Think of Farming", by W. F. Kunlien, Bulletin 223, South Dakota State College and the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, U. S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, also should be of interest to teachers of rural sociology. Data for this study were obtained by the survey method from farmers of Orland and Clarno townships, Lake County, South Dakota.

In the summary to this bulletin the farmer and his family are pictured as fairly well satisfied with the farm as a home and with his home and community relationships. With farming as a business he feels out of adjustment, but does not desire to quit farming.

-----O-----

ATTITUDES AND PROBLEMS OF FARM YOUTH.

"Attitudes and Problems of Farm Youth", a mimeographed report, Extension Circular 46, is available from the Office of Extension Work, United States Department of Agriculture. Data for this report were obtained by a number of cooperating agencies by means of questionnaires from 8,000 farm boys and girls 16 - 20 years of age, in practically all states. Tabulation of the data was handled jointly by the Office of Extension Work and the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life.

-----O-----

RESULTS OF STUDY OF NEW ENGLAND TOWN LIFE AVAILABLE.

"Social Participation in a Rural New England Town", by J. L. Hypes is available in the form of "Contributions to Education", No. 258, Teachers College, Columbia University. According to the author the study is an attempt through a rather intensive study of the associational life of a given rural area, to learn the kind of, the amount of, and the factors conditioning the primary group activities", beyond the family or household groups.

The bulletin embodies the results of a cooperative study conducted by the Connecticut Agricultural College and the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

-----O-----

BULLETIN ON RURAL SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

"Rural Social Organization in Whatcom County" by Edward A. Taylor and Fred R. Yoder, is available from the State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington as Bulletin 215. This is the second rural organization study made in the state of Washington by the Agricultural Experiment Station of the State College in cooperation with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, United States Department of Agriculture. The study "was undertaken in order to get a picture of a cross section of a typical part of Washington in reference to the groupings of rural people and to show present day trends of rural social life and rural and urban institutions of interest to farmers."

VILLAGE COMMUNITIES

"Village Communities" is the title of a new book by Dr. Edmund deS. Brunner, of the Institute of Social and Religious Research. The book "is the last of a series of five embodying the results of a national study of the agricultural village and its community in the United States". Other volumes published previously by the Institute include "A Census Analysis of American Villages", "American Villagers", "American Agricultural Villages" and "United Churches". The Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, U. S. Department of Agriculture, cooperated with the Institute of Social and Religious Research in conducting this study.

The first part of "Village Communities" summarizes the results of the entire study, represented in the four preceding volumes. The remainder gives eight write-ups or "case studies" of eight individual villages.

The purpose of the book, according to the author, is to present findings of the study made by the Institute, and "occasionally to suggest interpretations of these findings -- Need for more information about villages led the Institute to undertake" the study.

"There was a lack of precise information about villages. The very characteristics of village population were submerged by the United States Census in the far larger group of open-country dwellers who, with the villagers, made up the census classification of "rural". Rural leaders in many fields were asking, among other things, just how important the village was in national and in rural life; whether its importance was increasing or on the wane; whether its affiliations were more largely rural or urban; how far its well-being was influenced by agricultural conditions; and whether or not the village would become the seat of rural institutions.

"The Institute of Social and Religious Research sought to answer these questions, and to gather and present facts about villages in all parts of the country. The initial problem was to determine the relative importance of the village. The facts assembled in this phase of the study, some of them not before available, indicate that villages occupy a key position in the structure of the nation, and especially in the structure of rural America".

The five volumes represent a vast amount of scientific data adapted for use by teachers and students of rural sociology. The author hopes that "Village Communities" may serve as a text, with the preceding volumes as collateral reading, in colleges and theological seminaries.

OUTLINE FOR GENERAL COURSE IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY.

An outline for a general course in rural sociology is available in pamphlet form from the Institute of Religious and Social Research, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City. This outline or syllabus, prepared by Gwendolyn S. Hughes, "rests largely upon the American Village Studies of the Institute of Social and Religious Research which have made available entirely new data pertaining to the village."

The village is regarded as occupying the central place in rural life. Rural conditions, it is held, cannot be understood without a thorough understanding of the relationships and the differences between villages and open country.

The leading books, bulletins and reports in the field of rural sociology are cited in the syllabus. A well selected bibliography makes the outline worthy of the attention of all teachers of rural sociology.

-----0-----

REPORT OF STUDY OF CERTAIN PROCESSES AND CONDITIONS ON FARMS AVAILABLE.

"An Investigation of Certain Processes and Conditions on Farms" by W. R. Dunlop, Report 2 of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology, London, contains much of interest to rural research workers and progressive farmers in America. This report presents the results of the first known systematic attempt in any country "to apply the point of view and methods of industrial psychology to agriculture". A part of the cost of the study and the cost of publication were met by a research grant from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial of New York.

The picking and packing of fruit and the milking of cows were the two problems chosen for investigation. The observation method of study was used. Careful observations and inquiries were made by the investigator whose conclusions are recorded in the form of suggestive problems for future inquiry by the same method. Among these problems are farm layout, relation between farmers and workers, agricultural cooperation and vocational selection and guidance.

Economically, the study deals with the efficiency of workers in the farm operations studied. Among the significant points set forth in the summary are "The best pickers at one kind of fruit are the best pickers of all kinds of fruit", "One hop picker may pick nearly four times as fast as another" and "The rates of women milkers studied were equal to those of men milkers. Women were found to be more patient and cheerful with their cows than men, but not more so than boys".

It appears that the observation method should prove applicable to the study of certain aspects of farming and farm family living in America. It is questionable whether the historical method of research will ever provide satisfactory bases for the solution of some of our most significant problems of agriculture. And, Sir Daniel Hall characterizes this new study in the field of observation as "an example of a field that needs to be explored, work in which might have a great effect on the achievements of agriculture".

-----0-----

OHIO SOCIOLOGIST.

"The Ohio Sociologist", bulletin of the Ohio Sociological Society, (mimeographed) made its appearance in May, 1927. The bulletin is published at Ohio State University by the Ohio Sociological Society with Charles J. Breshnall, University of the City of Toledo, president; James A. Quinn, University of Cincinnati, vice-president; F. G. Detweiler, Denison University, secretary-treasurer, and H. A. Miller, editor.

The early fall issue will include a Who's Who of the sociologists in Ohio.

-----0-----

THE RURAL STANDARD OF LIVING.

In the "Rural Standard of Living" (a pamphlet) by A. W. Ashby, University College, Aberystwyth, Wales, consideration is given to the relation of the standard of living to income. "Standards of living are not in the long run determined by wages or by any form of income, but are themselves the most important factor in the determination of incomes especially of wages", states the author. For all manual workers and clerical workers including the professional groups, "their own standards of living are the dominant factors in the determination of their incomes". The farmer is held to be no exception to this rule.

The standard of living is regarded by Prof. Ashby, as embracing "all those things which we want and want enough to secure them: -- It includes those things which from our point of view belong in the daily routine of our lives".

Thus, the standard of living becomes of fundamental importance to farmers and to agriculture. "It is only through constant pressure of the endeavor to maintain or improve the standard of living for the whole (farmer) group that the income of the industry as a whole is secured".

The pamphlet by Prof. Ashby is worthy of a careful reading by all who are interested in one or another of the different aspects of farming and farm family living.

-----0-----

PAMPHLETS AND OTHER BULLETINS PERTAINING TO THE STANDARD OF LIVING.

Among other bulletins and pamphlets pertaining to various aspects of the standard of living are the following:

Dietary Scales and Standards for Measuring a Family's Nutritive Needs, by Dr. Edith Hawley, technical bulletin No. 8, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Cost of Feeding the Nebraska Farm Family, by J. O. Rankin, bulletin No. 219, University of Nebraska, Agricultural Experiment Station; Clothing as an Economic Problem, by Blanch E. Hyde, mimeograph report, Colorado Agricultural College; Family Living in 25 Farm Homes of Askov, Pine County, Minnesota for the Year Ending December 31, 1925, by E. L. Kirkpatrick and A. T. Hoverstad, preliminary report, U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

-----O-----

MONEY VALUE OF LIFE.

The American Journal of Public Health for June, 1927, contains an interesting article of a statistical nature, "The Money Value of Life and Life Extension". Estimates given are based on data gathered by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the U. S. Children's Bureau, the Merchant's Association of New York and the New York State College of Agriculture. Louis I. Dublin and A. J. Lotka are authors of the article.

-----O-----

TO STUDY RURAL LIFE IN THE ORIENT.

Edmund deS. Brunner has been released from his regular duties by the Institute of Social and Religious Research to undertake certain studies in rural social organization in the Orient during the coming year. These studies will be specifically from the point of view of the mission agencies. The chief emphasis will be placed upon Korea, in which small nation an attempt will be made, in addition to a general appraisal of the field, to undertake field studies of a number of villages with the aid of a competent staff.

Following this, the itinerary calls for certain observations of significant rural experiments in Japan, India and the Near East. Mr. Brunner will report to the International Missionary Council meeting in Jerusalem in the spring of 1928 and expects to attend the International Country Life Conference and the meetings of the Institute of Agriculture on his way back to the States.

-----O-----

JOINS RURAL STAFF OF Y.W.C.A.

Miss Marjorie Patten, for six years chief field worker of the rural unit of the Institute of Social and Religious Research, author of "The Country Church in Colonial Counties" and joint author of "American Agricultural Villages", has resigned from her position at the Institute to accept a position on the National Rural Staff of the Young Women's Christian Association.

-----O-----

DIRECTS STANDARD OF LIVING STUDIES.

Miss Elizabeth Clapp, chief statistician of the rural unit of the Institute of Social and Religious Research, has resigned her position to accept the directorship of a series of standard of living studies to be conducted under the Purnell Fund by the Connecticut State College of Agriculture.

-----O-----

CHANGE IN SECRETARYSHIP OF AMERICAN COUNTRY LIFE ASSOCIATION.

With the close of the tenth annual conference at East Lansing, Michigan, Henry Israel, executive secretary of the American Country Life Association for the past five years severed his connection with the organization in order to return to the Town-Country department of the National Council of the Young Men's Christian Association. Walter J. Campbell, chairman of the executive committee of the association will serve as temporary executive secretary until January 1, 1928. At this time, Nat T. Frame, Director of Extension Work, West Virginia University will become the executive secretary of the association.

The members elected to the Board of Directors of the American Country Life Association at the East Lansing meeting, were as follows: Edmund deS. Brunner, New York; Nat T. Frame, West Virginia; Carl C. Taylor, North Carolina; Albert Shaw, Jr., New York; E. T. Meredith, Iowa; A. R. Mann, Cornell University, New York; Mrs. A. H. Reeve, (President National Parent-Teachers' Association,) Pennsylvania.

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETS IN WASHINGTON.

The twenty-second annual meeting of the American Sociological Society will be held in Washington, D. C., December 27 - 30, 1927. Among the other societies meeting at the same time and the same place are the American Statistical Association, The American Economic Association, the American Farm Economic Association, and the National Community Center Association.

The general subject of the American Sociological Society meeting will be "The Relation of the Individual and the Group". The rural sociology sec-

tion has been asked to contribute one paper, with discussion, to the general meeting.

The Steering Committee of the Rural Sociology Section is making every possible effort to provide an unusually strong program. Tentatively, the plans vary somewhat from former years. It is hoped that one session may be given to research, another to teaching and another to extension work. The research session will be given largely to the discussion of the status and the next steps in rural social research. Eben Mumford, a member of the American Sociological Society's committee on research, has consented to lead this discussion.

For the session on teaching, current and other texts in rural sociology will be "opened" for discussion. Carle C. Zimmerman has been asked to start this discussion.

In the field of extension, H. C. Ramsower, Director of Extension Service, Ohio State University, will open the discussion with a paper, "Needs in Extension Work in Rural Sociology".

The joint luncheon with the Farm Economists may be given entirely to a discussion of "Population, Food Supply and Farmers", or some similar topic. Edward M. East, J. Russel Smith, Raymond Pearl or some other authority will be invited to give the principal address or paper.

Dwight Sanderson will represent the rural sociologist on the general program, with a paper on "The Rural Individual and the Group". Full details of the program will appear in the next issue of "Activities". In the meantime suggestions on the program will be greatly appreciated by the program steering committee of which E. L. Kirkpatrick, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C., is chairman.

FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM
POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 1, 1927

Vol. 1, No. 4

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETS IN WASHINGTON DECEMBER 27 - 30.

The twenty-second annual meeting of the American Sociological Society will be held at the Hotel Raleigh, Washington, D. C., December 27 - 30, 1927. The program of the Rural Sociology Section as arranged by the Committee consisting of E. L. Kirkpatrick, United States Department of Agriculture, Eben Mumford, Michigan State College, and Carle C. Zimmerman, University of Minnesota, has something of interest for all; investigators, teachers and extension workers, in the field of rural life. With probably a few minor changes this program will be about as follows:

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

RURAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION, AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 27, 10:00 - 12:00

Joint Session with Division of Social Research of the American Sociological Society.

Application of the Statistical Method to the Study of Wealth and Welfare of Farm Families - J.A.Dickey, Univ. of Arkansas.

Application of the Case History Method to the Study of the Wealth and Welfare of Farm Families - George H. von Tungen, Iowa State College.

Principles of Expenditures of Farm Income, Carle C. Zimmerman, Univ. of Minnesota.

Special Interest Groups in Rural Sociology; J.H.Kolb, University of Wisconsin.

December 28, 10:00 - 12:00

Sectional Meeting - W.A.Anderson, North Carolina State College, Chairman, sub-committee on research, presiding.

New Forces in Research - C.J.Galpin, U.S.Department of Agriculture.

Scope, Methodology and Personnel in Research - J.H.Kolb, Univ. of Wisconsin.

Informal Discussion - The Next Steps in Research - Eben Mumford, Michigan State College; E.L.Morgan, Univ. of Missouri; Wilson Gee, Univ. of Virginia; and others.

Report of the sub-committee on population, Bruce L.Melvin, Cornell Univ.

December 28, 12:30 - 3:00

Sectional Meeting - J.L.Hypes, Connecticut Agric. College, chairman, sub-committee on teaching, presiding.

The Status of Rural Sociology in Colleges and Universities - C.R.Hoffer, Michigan State College.

An Analysis of the Content of text-books in Rural Sociology - Carle C. Zimmerman, University of Minn.

Informal discussion - C.E.Lively, Ohio State Univ.; Fred R.Yoder, Washington State College; A.Z.Mann, Garrett Biblical Inst., and others.

December 29, 10:00 - 12:00

Sectional Meeting - T.B.Manny, U.S.Department of Agriculture, presiding.

The Status of Extension Work in Rural Sociology - W.H. Stacy, Iowa State College.

Extension Needs in the Field of Rural Social Organization - H.C.Ramsower, Director of Agricultural Extension Service, Ohio State University.

Informal discussion - Eva Duthie, Cornell Univ.; B.L.Hummel, Univ. of Missouri; J.T. Schmidt, Ohio State University, and others.

December 29, 12:15 - 2:30

Joint Luncheon with American Farm Economic Association - J.I.Falconer, President, American Farm Economics Association, presiding.

Population, Food Supply and American Agriculture - O.E.Baker, U.S.Dept. of Agriculture.

Informal discussion - P.K.Whelpton, Scripps Foundation, Miami University; G.F. Warren, Cornell University; H.C.Taylor, Institute of Land Economics, Northwestern University; and others.

December 30, 10:00 - 12:00

Joint session with General Sociologists.

The Relation of the Farmer to Rural and Urban Groups - Dwight Sanderson, Cornell Univ.

Discussion - John M.Gillette, Univ. of North Dakota; L.L.Bernard, Tulane University.

In the arrangement of the program on research the committee has attempted to confine both papers and discussion to present activities in the field as revealed by the Conference on Research Methods at Purdue University and by the report on Research in Rural Sociology prepared by the Advisory Committee on Social and Economic Research in Agriculture of the Social Science Research Council. It is hoped that the discussion on research will be especially constructive in nature and that new lines of work, with regard to scope and methodology, will be pointed out.

In the field of teaching "An Analysis of the Content of Text-Books in Rural Sociology" should naturally raise the question of what to teach in regular courses offered in this field. Prerequisites for courses, and methods of teaching are other aspects which should grow out of the discussion.

The extension phase of the program will present the question of needs in extension from the standpoint of workers in this field. Informal discussion by specialists and others is expected to raise definite questions as to methods, objectives and personnel in extension work in rural sociology.

The joint luncheon of the Rural Sociology Section and the American Farm Economics Association opens a new line of thinking for most of the rural sociologists. "Population, Food Supply and American Agriculture" will be treated in an informal, instructive way by O.E. Baker of the United States Department of Agriculture. P.K. Whelpton, G.F. Warren, and H.C. Taylor will lead the informal discussion. Rural sociologists, those concerned with population studies especially, are urged to participate in the discussion. No rural sociologist can afford to miss the luncheon.

The Rural Section program will be "tied in" to the General Sociology program with two sessions of interest to workers in the rural field. The first of these is a joint meeting with the Division of Research at which ten-minute papers are to be presented by each of four workers in the rural field. The other is the closing session of the general program at which Dwight Sanderson presents his paper "The Relation of the Farmer to Rural and Urban Groups."

Other organizations meeting in Washington December 27 - 30, include the American Economic Association, the American Farm Economics Association, The American Historical Association, the American Political Science Association, the American Statistical Association and the National Community Center Association. Rural Sociologists will do well to attend the meetings and to participate in the discussions most closely relating to their work. Information concerning railroad fares, hotel rates, etc. and copies of the complete program of the American Sociological Society meetings can be obtained from E.W. Burgess; Secretary-Treasurer, American Sociological Society, University of Chicago.

-----O-----

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

A preliminary report on research in rural sociology in the United States has been prepared by C.J. Galpin, United States Department of Agriculture aided by J.H. Kolb, University of Wisconsin, Dwight Sanderson, Cornell University, and C.C. Taylor, North Carolina State College. This report prepared under the direction of the Advisory Committee on Social and Economic Research in Agriculture of the Social Science Research Council comprises the tentative results of a survey of research in progress during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927. The material presented in the report will constitute a part of a handbook on administration, personnel, scope of studies and methodology in research now in preparation by the Committee named above. It will serve as one of the bases of papers and discussion on research at the winter meeting of the Rural Sociology Section of the American Sociological Society, held at Washington, December 27 - 30.

-----O-----

DIRECTORY OF TEACHERS GIVING COURSES IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY.

The new directory of teachers giving courses in rural sociology and rural life, as of October 1, 1927, shows approximately 600 teachers giving courses in 550 colleges and universities, including normal schools and theological seminaries. A survey of the number of courses taught and the number of students enrolled in these courses is being made by C.R.Hoffer of the Michigan State College in cooperation with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life. Tentative results of this study will be presented at the meeting of the American Sociological Society, to be held in Washington, December 27 - 30.

-----O-----

RURAL RESEARCH IN AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY.

The September, 1927, issue of the American Journal of Sociology is devoted largely to research in rural sociology, in the form of papers and discussion presented at the last annual meeting of the American Sociological Society and at the Purdue Conference on Research Methods in Rural Sociology, for the most part. Among the articles appearing in this issue are "Scientific Research in Rural Sociology", Dwight Sanderson; "Methods of Social Research", Bruce L.Melvin, "Research in Rural Sociology", Carl C. Taylor; "Joint Cooperative Studies," E.L.Kirkpatrick; "Migration to Towns and Cities," Carle C. Zimmerman.

-----O-----

MAKING SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDIES.

"Making Social Science Studies" by Emory S. Bogardus, now in its third edition, has much of interest to research workers and teachers of rural sociology. Prepared originally for use in social science classes "where students are asked to make special studies" the booklet has been enlarged through the second and third editions to include graphic illustrations, additional details and discussion of "several types of papers often assigned in the social science field."

The scientific attitude, choosing topics for study, gathering data, analyzing data, making facts graphic and preparing theses and dissertations are among the chapters treated in an interesting manner. Copies of the booklet may be obtained from Jesse Ray Miller, 3566 University Avenue, Los Angeles, Cal.

-----O-----

RURAL LIFE PROGRESS IN THE UNITED STATES.

"Rural Life Progress in the United States, Ten-Year Period, 1917-1927," an address delivered by C.J.Galpin before the tenth annual conference of the American Country Life Association at East Lansing, Michigan,

August 2, 1927, has been multigraphed and copies are available from the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

-----0-----

REPORT OF INSTITUTE ON RESEARCH METHODS IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY.

A mimeographed report of the "Institute on Research Methods in Rural Sociology", Purdue University, April 4 - 9, 1927, has been issued by the committee which sponsored the institute. G. I. Christie, Director of the Experiment Station, Purdue University, served as chairman of the committee. An interesting and worth while account of the Institute appears in the July, 1927, issue of the Experiment Station Record.

-----0-----

INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY LIFE COMMISSION BULLETIN.

Bulletin No. 4 of the International Country Life Commission contains the recommendations and resolutions adopted by the second conference of the Commission at East Lansing, Michigan, August 4 - 6, 1927.

-----0-----

KING ALBERT HONORS RURAL LIFE WORKERS.

According to the Official Record of the United States Department of Agriculture:

"A special agricultural decoration of the first class has been conferred upon C. J. Galpin, in charge of the division of rural life and farm population, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; Asher Hobson, collaborator of that bureau and permanent delegate of the United States to the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome; and Miss Grace E. Frysinger, of the extension service, by King Albert of Belgium upon suggestion of the Minister of Agriculture of Belgium. This distinction is in recognition of assistance given Belgium in establishing the International Country Life Commission and for efforts in behalf of the first country-life conference, which was held in Brussels in the summer of 1926, and the second conference, held in East Lansing, Michigan, in the summer of 1927. The idea of an international country-life movement was fostered by agricultural leaders in Belgium, and they considered it a distinct favor for the Americans to take up and promote the enterprise".

-----0-----

RURAL SOCIOLOGY: INDISPENSABLE OR DESIRABLE.

Attention is called to an article "Rural Sociology: Indispensable or Merely Desirable" by Jesse Frederick Steiner in the September, 1927, issue of Social Forces.

-----C-----

PRINCIPLES OF RURAL SOCIOLOGY.

According to the authors, "Principles of Rural Sociology" by Lundquist and Carver, (published by Ginn and Company) is intended to serve as an introductory study of rural problems in the United States. The book is regarded as a general "presentation of elementary principles". The outstanding rural problems of the present are held to be (1) Rural education, (2) the rural church, (3) rural recreation, (4) the farmer's lack of ready money, (5) the restlessness that results from the movement from country to city, and (6) class struggle and four principal tasks of the rural sociologist are (1) to gather information regarding all phases of rural life and work, (2) to organize his information into a body of knowledge that can begin to take on the semblance of wisdom, (3) to interpret his information to the country dweller, and (4) to formulate a program of betterment.

The style of the book should prove stimulating to the lay reader as well as to the student of rural life problems.

-----C-----

RURAL-URBAN RELATIONS SYLLABUS.

"Rural-Urban Relations", an outline for discussion, may be obtained from Vivid Painbridge, Student Secretary of the American Country Life Association, for 10 cents per copy. This outline was prepared under the direction of Benson Y. Landis for use in preparation for the eleventh annual national country life conference which will probably be held at Urbana, Illinois, in June, 1928. It affords a starting point for discussion groups (students and others) and should result, when used, in the accumulation of information having a direct bearing on the conference topic. According to the author the following points are of interest in connection with the outline and its use.

1. The literature upon rural-urban relations is as yet meager and the references cited are few. In each case, they should be supplemented by other materials to which the group has access. It is essential that preparation be made for each discussion.

2. This outline is issued only as a suggestion and is looked upon as altogether tentative. It is hoped that by the first of the year there will be some experience in its use and that students, professors and others using it will send suggestions for a revision which can be available for the second semester of the school year.

3. At this writing (early in October 1927) the program committee of the American Country Life Association has made no suggestions about treatment of the topic, "Rural-Urban Relations", nor any definition or delimitation. It is essential that a group considering rural-urban relations agree upon some definition of what constitutes "rural" and "urban" in the discussion. It is possible to consider the relation of the farm population with other groups.

The supplement at the end of the outline gives suggestions as to methods of conducting group discussions.

-----O-----

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS OF FARMERS WITH TOWNS.

"The Social and Economic Relations of the Farmers with the Towns of Pickaway County, Ohio," by Perry P. Denune, is of interest to teachers and investigators in the field of rural sociology. This bulletin embodies the results of a study by the survey method of seven towns as economic and social centers in Pickaway County, Ohio, 1926. The study "was undertaken for the purpose of discovering the extent to which townspeople and farmers of Pickaway County, Ohio, are associating in certain social and economic activities. The activities studied included:

1. The purchase of supplies in the towns by farmers.
2. The use of town business facilities for marketing farmers' produce.
3. The extent to which town business men (including bankers) aid farmers in the matter of credit.
4. The extent to which farmers patronize the local newspaper.
5. Membership in, attendance and support of churches, lodges, clubs, chautauquas, etc., in the towns by farmers and the similar support of rural institutions by townspeople.
6. Cooperation in school support."

The Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, United States Department of Agriculture cooperated in the study. Copy of the bulletin may be obtained by writing Ohio State University for Bureau of Business Research Monograph No.9.

-----O-----

MIGRATION OF POPULATION TO AND FROM FARMS.

"Analysis of Migration to and from Farms" by C.J. Galpin, a mimeographed preliminary report, is available from the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This report in-

cludes the study of 2745 farm operators who left farming for city, town or village 1922-1926, and 1167 persons who left city, town or village for the farm, for about the same period. Information for the report was obtained by the questionnaire method.

-----C-----

CENSUS DATA ON FARM POPULATION, 1925.

Bulletins containing census data on farm population by age, sex, color and tenure for 1925, by counties, are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. at five cents per copy. These bulletins which are issued separately for the different states contain also, data on specified crops and livestock, woodland cleared, etc., acreage and value of farms, and cooperative marketing. Farm population data should prove of especial interest to teachers of rural sociology.

-----C-----

MONOGRAPHIC STUDY IN AGRICULTURAL HISTORY.

"The Development of Agriculture in New Jersey, 1640-1830," a monographic study in agricultural history, by Carl Raymond Woodward, is available as bulletin 431 from the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Source materials from the libraries, including Rutgers, Princeton, Cornell, University of Pennsylvania, Harvard, Yale, New York, Newark, Trenton, the United States Department of Agriculture form the basis of a well-arranged analysis and presentation of the educational influences affecting the development of agriculture in New Jersey. The study is suggestive of others of a similar nature possible from source materials in different libraries by students interested in tracing the development of American agriculture.

-----C-----

HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE IN COLORADO.

A "History of Agriculture in Colorado," by Alvin T. Steinsel and D. W. Working is available from the Colorado Agricultural College, Fort Collins, Colorado. In this 660 page treatise the authors have covered fully the development of the different types of farming and the growth and development of agricultural research and agricultural education within the state. Chapters on rural life in the pioneer period, early years of statehood, the settler and the Indian and agricultural colonies and colonization have many points of interest to rural life workers.

The purpose of the study is stated by Chas. A. Lory in a foreword as follows:

"We present this narrative of our agricultural development to the fiftieth anniversary of statehood in the hope that, in part at least, it fulfills its purpose; that of showing as far as possible from first-hand information the conditions that faced our first settlers and how they met them; of tracing the different branches of the industry through their various phases from their beginnings to the present, of showing how agricultural education and investigation were provided, supported and utilized, and how legislation and state-supported service kept pace with changing needs and made possible further advance.

-----C-----

GOLDEN AGE OF HOMESPUN.

Another bulletin of interest from the standpoint of the development of agriculture is the "Golden Age of Homespun," by Jared Van Wageningen, Jr., bulletin 203, N.Y. State Department of Agriculture and Markets. In this treatise, according to Berne A. Pyrke in the foreword, "we see exhibited in graphic touches the life of rural residents of New York State in the intensely interesting era, 'The Golden Age of Homespun.' The accomplishments of the early New York farmers make a tale well worth telling. The very generation of New York men who fought to break the shackles of tyranny that bound the Colony to the mother country, the moment that independence was won turned to a struggle no less tense to free agriculture from the shackles of backwardness and ignorance." The author has succeeded in his "effort to collect and put into permanent form some record of the lore and the methods by which our forebears made both a living and a life upon the land."

-----C-----

LITERATURE OF RURAL LIFE CITED.

Beginning with the November issue Rural America will carry regularly a list of the literature of rural life. This list will be prepared under the direction of Mary T. Lacy, Librarian, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and chairman of the Committee on Cooperative Bibliographical Aid of the Agricultural Libraries Section of the American Library Association. This committee was appointed early in the spring at the request of the American Country Life Association by Miss C.R. Barnett, then chairman of the Agricultural Libraries Section of the American Library Association. The other members of the committee are: Julia Wright Merrill, Executive Assistant, American Library Association, Committee on Library Extension; Louise C. Bercey, Reference and Bibliographical Assistant, Bureau of Agricultural Economics Library; L.H. Foote, Librarian, State College of Washington; Mary E. Reedy, Chief, Book Selection Department, Wisconsin Free Library Commission; Harriet W. Sewall, Librarian, Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota.

The committee has already given valuable suggestions for the second edition of the Country Life Book List published by the American Country Life Association.

-----C-----

COMPLETE FIELD WORK ON FARM BUSINESS AND FAMILY LIVING STUDY.

E.L.Kirkpatrick and H.W.Hawthorne, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics spent two weeks in November in Southeastern Ohio completing the field work for the joint study of farm business and family living among 300 farm families in Vinton, Jackson and Meigs Counties. They were assisted in the field by P. G. Beck, of the Ohio State University in cooperation with which the study is being made.

The chief task on this trip was to check the tentative summaries on income and outgo with approximately a third of the families for whom the figures indicated a deficit for the year of study. Tabulation of the data is well underway and preliminary results of the study should be available at an early date.

-----O-----

HOW FARM FAMILY INCOMES ARE SPENT.

Research workers and others interested in the farmer's standard of living will want to read the University of Minnesota Experiment Station Bulletin 234, "How Minnesota Farm Family Incomes are Spent" by Carle C. Zimmerman and John D. Black. This bulletin embodies the results of a study by the survey method of 357 farm families in seven counties of Minnesota. Data on receipts, expenditures and living conditions were gathered during the fall of 1925. Farm cash receipts, expenditures of cash receipts, farm expenditures, investments, rural population increase, work and leisure and other aspects of the subject are among the topics treated.

-----O-----

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN CONNECTION WITH FARM FAMILY LIVING STUDIES.

not yet finished
"Suggested Definitions of Terms Used in Connection With Farm Family Living Studies" has been prepared by the committee appointed at the Purdue conference on Research Methods in Rural Sociology. Copies of this paper are available to rural sociologists and others who care to give it a careful reading with the view of offering suggestions to the committee. Requests for copies should be addressed to E. L. Kirkpatrick, Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

-----O-----

SUCCESSFUL FARM FAMILIES.

"Successful Farm Families of Colorado," by B.F.Coen, of the Colorado Agricultural College presents "some facts and factors in the success of eighty-five Colorado farm families" and gives the story of a sort of a case study record of ten of these families.

Data for the study were obtained by the survey method from families which had been recommended as coming under an arbitrary standard of success. "Each family had succeeded in creating a real love for and appreciation of country life in the young people and also was yielding a real influence in the community." These families were scattered all over the state, necessitating 5,000 miles of travel by the field worker to obtain the information. The Division of Farm Population and Rural Life cooperated in the study.

-----0-----

RURAL HOSPITALS ON COMMONWEALTH FUND.

According to the November 15 issue of the "Red Cross Courier" "Beloit, Kansas, and Wauseon, Ohio, have been selected as locations for the fourth and fifth rural hospitals which the Commonwealth Fund is helping to build as a contribution toward the improvement of health and medical conditions in country districts. Three such hospitals have already been awarded to Farmville, Virginia, Glasgow, Kentucky, and Farmington, Maine, under a cooperative program whereby the fund donates two-thirds of the cost of construction and equipment while the local community guarantees the remainder and undertakes the expense of operation.

The program contemplates placing these hospitals in rural areas where they will serve a surrounding district with a radius of approximately 35 miles. The communities chosen must give indication of real need of outside assistance, while at the same time having sufficient economic resources to make possible the fulfillment of their part of the agreement. Favorable conditions for the development of sound public health work and public health nursing are also considered in making the awards.

Beloit, a community of 3,315 population, is the county seat of Mitchell County in north central Kansas. The population of the entire area which will benefit by the proposed hospital is estimated at 73,000. Wauseon, with a population of 3,100, is the county seat of Fulton County, in the extreme northwestern corner of Ohio. An area having a population of 97,000 will be served by the proposed hospital. The district is typically rural. A State law permits the organization of county health units and it is hoped that the development of public health work and public health nursing will be stimulated by the location of a modern hospital in this community."

-----0-----

RURAL HEALTH FACILITIES.

"Rural Health Facilities of Ross County, Ohio," by C.E. Lively and P.G. Beck is available from the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, Ohio, as bulletin 412. This bulletin presents the results of study by the survey method of public and private health agencies, doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, hospitals, etc., serving the rural parts of Ross County. In addition, 50 farm families in each of four localities were visited for data on the use of the prevailing health agencies. The 200 families visited

spent approximately \$39 per year for medical and health purposes during the year, about 20 per cent of which went for prescribed drugs and remedies.

-----0-----

AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION MEETING.

The American Hospital Association held its annual convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 10-14, 1927. A representative from the U. S. Department of Agriculture was invited to attend this convention.

-----0-----

COMMITTEE ON COST OF MEDICAL CARE
SHOWS INTEREST IN RURAL HEALTH.

The Committee on the Cost of Medical Care, of which H. C. Taylor is a member representing agricultural interests met in New York on November 7. This is the first meeting of the Committee at which rural people were represented and Dr. Taylor reports a high degree of interest in rural health on the part of the Committee with a determination to investigate completely medical costs among rural families of the United States.

-----0-----

NEW STUDY OF RURAL COMMUNITY BUILDINGS.

Wayne C. Nason of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life is conducting a study of rural community buildings with especial reference to buildings of a social character which are in any way used by cooperative organizations for cooperative purposes. The questionnaire method of study is being used at the outset. Personal visits may be made later to buildings which seem particularly significant in regard to the activities named above. Readers knowing of significant community buildings used for either cooperative or social purposes are urged to forward to the Division the name and location of the building and the name and address of the person sending the information.

-----0-----

PUBLIC SCHOOL DORMITORIES FOR RURAL CHILDREN.

Bulletin No. 201, University of Montana, Agricultural Experiment Station, by Jesse E. Richardson and J. Wheeler Berger, embodies the results of a study of public school dormitories for rural children of Montana. In some Montana communities, "dormitories have been maintained in connection with public high schools for the benefit of rural children." The authors have studied the history of growth, legal authorization, individual experiences and effect of dormitory life upon pupils for the purpose of making information available to other communities interested in adopting the dormitory plan for housing children from the rural districts.

-----0-----

RURAL SOCIAL ORGANIZATION.

"Rural Social Organization in Whatcom County, Washington" by E. A. Taylor and Fred R. Yoder, embodies the results of a cooperative study by the Washington State Agricultural Experiment Station and the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life. According to the authors "this study of rural group life in the western section of Whatcom county was undertaken in order to get a picture of a cross section of a typical part of Washington in reference to the groupings of rural people and to show the present day trends of rural social life and rural and urban institutions of interest to farmers". Data were obtained from 275 farm homes as well as from leaders in towns and villages.

Figure

-----0-----

RURAL RELIGION AND THE COUNTRY CHURCH.

"The great need of American farm life is cheer, encouragement and spiritual ties", says Warren H. Wilson in his most recent book, "Rural Religion and the Country Church", published by the Fleming H. Revell Company. "Only by religion can families be held to the severe tasks of farming for generations, against the enticements of other careers more lucrative and less exacting".

Farm and family religion, teaching christianity through the soil; will the farm survive?, and the return of the dominie are among the ten chapters by means of which the author presents in an interesting way the problems and the opportunities of the country church. Suggested remedies to the rural church situation include the proposal that the minister be the pastor of all who live on an area of land and a plea for a new plan of "national administration of American rural faith in its most frequent organized expressions, the country churches, as will give to the country pastor self respect, pride in his occupation and freedom from worldly care to serve his Master as he desires to serve".

Rural life workers who are interested in the country church will profit materially from a careful reading of Dr. Wilson's new book.

-----0-----

RURAL PASTOR'S SALARIES REDUCED.

A recent meeting of the Laymen's Association of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church brought out the fact that 47 rural churches in Illinois had reduced pastor's salaries from \$1,000 to \$500 during this past year. In view of these reductions the association drew up and passed the following set of resolutions which have been forwarded to other laymen's organizations and religious agencies of both Protestant and Catholic churches:

"WHEREAS, the evidence persists that throughout the area of this Conference depression in agriculture is not only causing personal distress to many of our members, but is also rendering more difficult the problem of our churches in rural and other communities;

"WHEREAS, it is the belief of many of our members that the persistence of the depression is caused in part by disadvantages resulting from federal policies less favorable to agriculture than to other branches of our economic system; and

"WHEREAS, it is the belief of many of our members that the disadvantages under which our rural communities struggle are partly remediable by measures which can bring equality to agriculture without imposing corresponding injustice upon groups already enjoying federal protection: therefore be it

"RESOLVED, that the Laymen's Association of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church hereby urges that nation-wide study be given by religious agencies of laymen and clergymen so as to ascertain whether the national position of American agriculture is such as to warrant the belief of some of our members that social justice and sound national policy unite in favor of obtaining for agriculture a more prosperous condition in American life".

-----C-----

RURAL RECREATION.

✓ "Rural Recreation in Two Counties of Ohio", by C. E. Lively presents the results of study by the survey method of the recreational opportunities and activities in Galia County and Paulding County, "two counties representing a decidedly different social and economic type". The community aspect and the family and individual aspect of recreation are covered in the bulletin which constitutes the most comprehensive single study made thus far in the field of rural recreation. Requests for copies of the bulletin should be addressed to Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, for graduate school series, contributions in Rural Economics, Number 1.

-----C-----

COOPERATIVE PROJECTS REVIEWED.

Among the research projects reviewed by the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life in cooperation with several colleges and universities this fiscal year are "Rural Population, Composition and Changes", Iowa State College, "The Effect of the Development of Manufacturing on the Welfare of the Rural Population", University of Tennessee, "A Study of Rural Community Organization in Missouri", University of Missouri, and "A Study of Rural Community Organization in Wisconsin", University of Wisconsin.

-----C-----

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURAL CREDIT.

The "Social Aspects of Agricultural Credit" by Benson Y. Landis is available from the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, 105 E. 23rd St. New York, in the form of Research Bulletin Number 6. In this bulletin the author gives interpretations of data compiled by economists and government departments and discusses a number of questions or issues including the adequacy of credit institutions, ruralizing credit systems, government control over credit resources, usury, government assistance versus local cooperation and the relation of credit to social institutions.

-----0-----

TO STUDY SOCIAL ASPECTS OF COOPERATIVE MARKETING.

Theodore B. Manny, who has been serving the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life as Collaborator, with headquarters in Arkansas, was appointed as Agricultural Economist in that Division on October 1 for duty in Washington. Mr. Manny will study the social aspects of cooperative marketing in cooperation with the Division of Cooperative Marketing.

Mr. Manny holds a B. S. degree in Agriculture from the University of Illinois and an M.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin. He has spent the greater part of his life on a farm.

-----0-----

FARM YOUTH

"Farm Youth," proceedings of the Ninth Annual Country Life Conference, is available from the American Country Life Association, 1849 Grand Central Terminal Building, New York City. Papers and addresses, records of group discussions and reports of the American Country Life Association are contained in the volume which is published by the University of Chicago Press.

-----0-----

COUNTY RURAL HOME LIFE CONFERENCE.

The Clarke County, Ohio, Farm Bureau, Parent Teachers Association, Council of Religious Education, Y.M.C.A., and Y.W.C.A., cooperated in conducting a successful county rural home life conference on October 20 - 21, 1927.

Henry Israel, former executive secretary of the American Country Life Association, led the 100 or more participants in group discussion of "The Things That Concern Us Most About Our Farm Homes". Among these were educational facilities for children, low standards of community life,

poor attendance at country churches, lack of social life, lack of beautification of farm homes and the need of more money. Ways and means of meeting these problems were considered.

STUDY 4-H CLUB VALUES.

A study of community and personal values of 4-H club work in West Virginia will be conducted by E. E. Hootch of West Virginia University. Information will be obtained by the questionnaire and the survey method from approximately a third of the 750 4-H clubs throughout the state. Case studies will be made of a select number of former club members to "determine from their social behavior the influence of 4-H clubs." The study is cooperative between West Virginia University and the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
